FRONTISPIECE

Drink freely of this Fountain and youll find
Its Salutary Streams improve your Mind.

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RURAL BEAUTIES;

OR, THE

Natural History

Of the four following

WESTERN COUNTIES,

VIZ.

Cornwall,
Devonshire,
Dorsetshire, and
Somersetshire.

WITH

Additional Remarks.

BY

THEOPHILUS BOTANISTA, M.D.

As yon clear Lake the pendent Image shows
Of ev'ry Flow'r that on its Border grows;
So, in the fair Creations GLASS, we find
A faint Reflection of th' ETERNAL MIND.

Fenton's Misc.

LONDON:

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MDCCLVII.

TO THE

GUARDIANS,

Preceptors *and* Governeſſes,

Throughout the Kingdom of

Great-Britain,

THESE

Philoſophical Amuſements

Are humbly Offered as a proper

New-Years-Gift

For their Young

WARDS and PUPILS

OF

Both Sexes,

BY

Their moſt obedient Servants,

The EDITORS.

TO THE

GUARDIANS,

Preceptors and Governesses,

Throughout the Kingdom of

Great Britain,

THESE

Philosophical Amusements

Are humbly Offered as a proper

OF

Dublin Society,

BY

Their most obedient Servants,

The EDITORS.

A SHORT VIEW OF THE Natural Beauties OF THE UNIVERSE, By Way of INTRODUCTION.

Each Herb the footſteps of God's Wiſdom bears,
And every blade of Graſs his pow'r declares.

Nature is nothing but the Art of God; a bright diſplay of that divine Wiſdom, which demands our eternal tribute of Wonder and Worſhip.

Dr. Watts.

THERE is nothing that affords a more ſenſible proof both of the Exiſtence and Goodneſs of God, than the Beauties of the Univerſe, thoſe innumerable, gay appearances, and delightful

proſpects, which are ſcattered throughout all the ſcenes of the viſible creation. Thunder, lightning, earthquakes, and ſuch like aſtoniſhing phænomena of nature, may, perhaps, terrify us into an apprehenſion of a ſuperior power; but this is a proof, which works upon us in the moſt ſweet and agreeable, though, at the ſame time, forcible and convincing manner. This gives us the moſt lovely and amiable view of our Maker; and whilſt it perſuades our underſtandings of his being, engages our affections to rejoice in, love, and adore him.

The ſuperſtititious among the Romans were of opinion, that thoſe places in the country, which were more pleaſant than ordinary, ſuch as the openings of woods, and the flowery margins of fountains, were the favourite abodes of ſome particular rural deities. This wild imagination of theirs gives us juſt grounds to reflect, on the ſight of ſuch agreeable receſſes, that though there are, indeed, no footſteps to be ſeen in them of the preſence of their chimerical divinities; yet, that an attentive mind may find there many viſible marks of the real Preſence and Handy-work of the Great Creator.

The

The Beauty of the Univerſe demonſtrates, beyond all contradiction, that it is neither the work of Fate or Chance, but of a powerful and munificent Intelligence, who conſidered, in the framing of it, not only what was needful for the preſervation, but the ornament likewiſe of Nature, and provided, not only for the abſolute neceſſity, but even the innocent delight and entertainment of all his ſenſible creatures.

If we contemplate the ample arch of Heaven, which hangs over our heads, how beautifully is it tinctured with a ſprightly azure? How is it ſtudded with innumerable glowing ſpangles, or illumined with ten thouſand ſhining lamps? What a glorious and ſplendid body is the Sun? With what a variety of colours do his beams adorn the wandering clouds? How beauteous as well as uſeful is the Moon, that nightly ſubſtitute of his, who chears us, in his abſence, with her borrowed beams? In how many ſeveral forms, in how many various dreſſes of light does ſhe at different times appear to our eyes? If we contemplate, I ſay, thoſe celeſtial bodies, muſt we not, with the Pſalmiſt, acknowledge, that "the Heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament ſheweth his

handy-work?" Are they not for ever expreſſing their hymns of thankſgiving to their Great Creator?

We are told by the inimitable Mr. Addiſon, in his comment on the preceding text, that notwithſtanding they all move round our dark, terreſtrial globe in ſolemn ſilence; notwithſtanding, in reality, no voice or ſound is to be heard amidſt their radiant orbs; yet

"In reaſon's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice,
For ever ſinging, as they ſhine,
The Hand that made us is Divine."

As theſe miracles of nature, however, are not intended to be treated of in the ſubſequent Dialogues, we muſt (though againſt our inclination) drop the pleaſing ſubject, as being, in ſome meaſure foreign to our preſent purpoſe; tho' 'tis poſſible, nay highly probable, that we may hereafter entertain our young readers on that inſtructive topic, in a diſtinct treatiſe, in caſe this firſt attempt ſhould happen to meet with a favourable reception from the public.

From contemplating, therefore, the Beauties of the Heavens, let us now deſcend to

Thoſe

Thoſe of the Earth. Here we have a new ſcene of delightful objects opened to our view. Though that paradiſe within, which conſiſted in a conſtant joy and inward tranquillity of mind, be at preſent loſt; yet a great part of the outward paradiſe ſeems ſtill remaining.—Who can behold the Spring, arrayed in all her youthful pride and gaiety, adorned with blooming bloſſoms, ſprouting leaves, and an infinite variety of Flowers, without amazement and delight?

As the face of Heaven (we told you before) is tinctured with a ſprightly azure; ſo that of the Earth is overſpread with a lively green, a colour, which, of all others, is the moſt apt to revive the imagination, and excite alacrity in the ſoul. The ſurface of the Earth is not in all places ſmooth and level alike; for that would have taken away all variety of proſpect, but is agreeably diverſified with hills and valleys, woods and plains.

How various are the ſpecies of Trees, all entertaining to the eye, as well as aiding and aſſiſting to the conveniency of mankind? Among thoſe of larger ſize, and taller ſtature, we may reckon the Oak, the Pine, the Elm, and the Beach. Theſe pleaſe our imagination by their ſtately bulk and towering height,

as well as by the various uniform figures and different verdure of their leaves. Among thoſe of the lower claſs, we may take notice of the Lime, the Citron, the Orange, the Bay, and the Laurel. Theſe are ſo remarkable for their beauty and pleaſantneſs, that we plant them, for the generality, in our court-yards and gardens, as ornaments to our habitations. It would be endleſs to deſcribe all the beauties of the vegetable world. There is not a ſingle plant but what has ſome little prettineſs to boaſt of; either the regular and ſymmetrical figure of its leaves, the gaiety of its colours, or ſome other innate faculty to render it the juſt object of admiration.

As this ſcene of nature, in particular, is drawn in the moſt maſterly manner, and in the livelieſt colours that can poſſibly be conceived, by Virgil, in his ſecond Georgic, we ſhould think ourſelves guilty of an almoſt unpardonable fault, were we to paſs by ſo beautiful a landſcape unregarded.

" How pleaſing (ſays he) to the ſight Cytorus looks,
Flowing in gentle waves of livid Box!
How ſoft, how ſolemn is Narycia's ſhade,
Where pitchy groves the gloomy ſkies invade!

What

What lovely ſcenes in deſert lawns appear!
New to the harrow's toil, or peaſant's care!
Ev'n naked foreſts on Caucaſian rocks
Worn with the raging Eaſt's eternal ſhocks,
(Here ſhiver'd limbs lie ſcatter'd all around,
And the huge trunks extended on the ground)
Yet theſe, ev'n theſe convenient ſtores produce,
A various timber for a various uſe:
Tall Pines for veſſels; for the ſtately room
Cypreſs and Cedar, with its ſtrong perfume.
From hence the thrifty peaſant orbs his wheels,
And hence the ſailor ſeeks his bending keels.
The binding Oſier ſhoots a num'rous brood,
And Elms for cattle yield a leafy food.
For war the Myrtle and the Cornel grows,
And Parthians bend the Yew-tree into bows.
Nor will the ſmooth grain'd Lime or Box diſdain
The rounding chiſſel, or the hollowing plane:
Or feeble Alders dread th' impetuous tide,
But lightly ſkim the Po, and on his ſurges ride.
Whole ſwarms of bees repair to mould'ring Oaks,
There raiſe their cells, and hide their darling ſtocks."

What

What rhetoric can deſcribe the beauty, or arithmetic the variety of the ſeveral ſpecies of Flowers? In each month of the ſpring and ſummer a new ſet appears. The Primroſe and Violet lead the van of the blooming train. Theſe are ſucceeded by the Tulip, the Piony, the Flower-de-Lys, and a thouſand others. Then appear the Roſe, the Lilly, the Pink, the July-flower, &c. With what bright colours has Nature painted the greater part of them? What regularity and geometric exactneſs has ſhe obſerved in the figure and ſituation of their leaves? She has ſo curiouſly embelliſhed the very fruits of the earth, that it is evident ſhe deſigned them, not only to pleaſe the taſte, and ſatisfy the hunger, but even to gratify the ſight of man, and other animals. With how lovely a yellow has ſhe burniſhed the Orange? With how beautiful a bluſh has ſhe dyed the downy cheek of the Peach? With what lively ſtrokes of natural paint has ſhe adorned many ſorts of Pears and Apples? How fine a blue has ſhe ſpread over the Grape and Plumb? And with how full and deep a red has ſhe coloured the Cherry?

"With joy the Gard'ner ſees his labour bleſt,
His landſcape-wall in light and ſhadows dreſt;
The purple Fig, with bluſhing Peaches joins,
And the gay ſcene with various beauty ſhines."

Thus ſays the elegant Rapin, in his Treatiſe of Gardens; which is a work univerſally admired; but what is ſtill more obſervable and praiſe-worthy, is his pious Admonition to his readers on this occaſion.——

"While thus the Garden ſhines with various dyes,
Lift up from Earth to Heav'n your grov'ling eyes:
Survey the luſtre of thoſe bliſsful bow'rs,
Crown'd with as many Stars, as Earth with Flow'rs;
Then grateful your tranſported fancy raiſe,
And theſe admiring, their Creator praiſe."

If we examine the ſeveral kinds of animals, we ſhall find the bodies of them adorned with equal, if not ſuperior beauty, to what is found in the vegetables. To begin with MAN, the head and lord of this lower world. As he is endued with a rational and immortal mind; ſo the fair and majeſtic ſtructure of his

his body renders it a ſuitable habitation for ſuch a gueſt. As he is the moſt excellent of all animals, he is likewiſe the moſt ſtately and beautiful. This appears more eminently in the female ſex. The charms of theſe are the perpetual theme of poets and lovers. They celebrate them as divinely fair, as adorned with angelic graces, and ſhining with celeſtial beauty. Though ſome may think theſe encomiums too hyperbolical and extravagant; yet the moſt rigid Stoic, if he will but uſe his eyes, will be forced to acknowledge, that the form of many women is indeed lovely beyond expreſſion. A wonderful ſymmetry and proportion of features, a fair complexion, a ſparkling eye, a pleaſing gaiety and ſweetneſs of aſpect, and a certain ineffable grace and comelineſs, reſulting from the combination of all theſe, may be ſeen in many of that ſex.

Notwithſtanding this ſoft ſubject has been handled with great delicacy and elegance by numberleſs poets, both antient and modern; yet no one of them all, in our humble opinion, has ſet Man and Woman in ſo fair and advantageous a light, as our inimitable Milton. His remarkably ſublime paſſage runs thus:

"Two

"Two of far nobler ſhape, erect and tall,
Godlike erect! with native honour clad
In native majeſty, ſeem'd lords of all;
And worthy ſeem'd; for in their looks divine
The image of their glorious Maker ſhone,
Truth, wiſdom, ſanctitude ſevere and pure;
Severe; but in true filial freedom plac'd,
Whence true authority in men, tho' both
Not equal, as their ſex not equal ſeem'd;
For contemplation he, and valour form'd,
For ſoftneſs ſhe, and ſweet attractive grace;
He for GOD only, ſhe for GOD in him."

Though it muſt be allowed, that Adam and Eve were the maſter-pieces of the creation; yet there are ſtill numberleſs terreſtrial animals, which have their peculiar beauties, and are the juſt objects both of our amazement and delight. Witneſs (amongſt the four-footed beaſts) the War-horſe, the Elephant, the Lion, the Stag, the Grey-hound, and ten thouſand more. How inimitably is the firſt deſcribed by Moſes (as moſt commentators allow) in the book of Job, which (as the celebrated Dr. Young aſſures us) is not only the nobleſt, but the moſt antient Poem in the world? To this juſt, though ſhort character of it, biſhop Patrick adds the following eulogium,

gium, namely, "That its grandeur is as much above all other poetry, as thunder is louder than a whiſper." The words of the text are theſe: "Haſt thou given the Horſe ſtrength? (ſaith the Lord out of the cloud to his ſervant Job) haſt thou cloathed his neck with thunder? Canſt thou make him afraid as a graſshopper? The glory of his noſtrils is terrible. He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his ſtrength: he goeth on to meet the armed men. He mocketh at fear, and is not affrighted; neither turneth he back from the ſword. The quiver rattleth againſt him, the glittering ſpear and the ſhield. He ſwalloweth the ground with fierceneſs and rage, neither believeth he it is the ſound of the trumpet. He ſaith among the trumpets Ha; ha! and he ſmelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains, and the ſhouting."

This deſcription, under all the diſadvantages of having been written in a language little underſtood; of being expreſt in phraſes peculiar to a part of the world, whoſe manner of thinking and ſpeaking ſeems to us very uncouth; and above all, appearing in a proſe-tranſlation, is nevertheleſs ſo tranſcendently above all the heathen deſcriptions, that hereby

we may perceive how faint and languid the images are which are formed by mortal authors, when compared with that which is figured, as it were, and juſt as it appears in the eye of the Creator.—In this deſcription are all the great and ſprightly images that thought can form of this generous beaſt, expreſt in ſuch force and vigour of ſtyle, as would have given the great Wits of antiquity new Laws for the Sublime, had they been acquainted with theſe Writings. We cannot but particularly obſerve here, that whereas the Claſſical Poets chiefly endeavour to paint the outward figure, lineaments and motions; the Sacred Poet makes all the beauties to flow from an inward principle in the creature he deſcribes; and thereby gives ſpirit and vivacity to his deſcription. The following phraſes and circumſtances ſeem ſingularly remarkable. "Haſt thou cloathed his neck with thunder?"—Homer and Virgil mention nothing about the Neck of the Horſe, but his Mane: the Sacred Author, by the bold figure of Thunder, not only expreſſes the ſhaking of that remarkable beauty in the Horſe, and the flakes of hair, which naturally ſuggeſt the idea of Lightning; but likewiſe the violent agitation and force of the Neck, which, in

the Oriental tongues, had been flatly expreſt by a metaphor leſs than this.—"The glory of his noſtrils is terrible." This is more ſtrong and conciſe than that of Virgil, which yet is the nobleſt line that was ever written without inſpiration.

Collectumque premens volvit ſub naribus ignem. GEORG. iii. L. 85.

——and ſnorting curbs
The ſmoke and fire which in his noſtrils roll.
TRAP.

The following expreſſions—"He rejoiceth in his ſtrength;—He mocketh at fear;—neither believeth he that it is the ſound of the trumpet;—He ſaith among the trumpets; ha, ha!" are all ſigns of courage, as was obſerved before, flowing from an inward principle. There is a peculiar beauty in his "not believing it to be the ſound of the trumpet:" that is, he cannot believe it for joy; but when he is ſure of it, and is among the "trumpets; he ſaith ha, ha!" then he neighs, then he rejoices.—His docility is elegantly painted in his being unmoved "at the ratling quiver, the glittering ſpear, and the ſhield;

ſhield."—"He ſwalloweth the ground" is an expreſſion for prodigious Swiftneſs, in uſe among the Arabians, Job's countrymen, at this day. It is, indeed, the boldeſt and nobleſt image for Swiftneſs; neither is there any thing in the Engliſh language to be met with that comes nearer to it than the following lines in Mr. Pope's Windſor Foreſt.

"Th' impatient courſer pants in every vein,
And pawing, ſeems to beat the diſtant plain;
Hills, vales, and floods appear already croſt,
And e're he ſtarts a thouſand ſteps are loſt."

GUARDIAN, No. 86.

We doubt not but the following beautiful paraphraſe of this paſſage by the celebrated Dr. Young, will be thought an additional entertainment.

"Survey the warlike Horſe!—Didſt thou inveſt
With Thunder his robuſt, diſtended cheſt?
No ſenſe of fear his dauntleſs ſoul allays;
'Tis dreadful to behold his noſtrils blaze;
To pace the vale he proudly takes delight,
And triumphs in the fulneſs of his might;
High-rais'd, he ſnuffs the battle from afar,
And burns to plunge amid the raging war;

And mocks at death, and throws his foam around,
And in a ſtorm of fury ſhakes the ground:
How does his firm, his riſing heart advance,
Full on the brandiſh'd ſword, and ſhaken lance,
Whilſt his fixt Eye-balls meet the dazzling ſhield,
Gaze, and return the Lightning of the field?
He ſinks the ſenſe of pain in generous pride,
Nor feels the ſhaft that trembles in his ſide;
But neighs to the ſhrill trumpet's dreadful blaſt,
Till death, and when he groans, he groans his laſt.

Without making any apology for the length of this quotation, we ſhall proceed to a deſcription of the Elephant and the Lion.

As theſe two particular animals are more aſtoniſhing Wonders of Providence, and leſs familiar to our eyes than the former, we flatter ourſelves, that the following account of the firſt in proſe, and of the laſt in verſe, will be looked upon as novelties, and inſtructive, as well as innocent amuſements.

They, then, who have ſtudied the nature of the Elephant with moſt accuracy, tell many extraordinary things of the ſagacity, faithfulneſs,

faithfulneſs, prudence, and even underſtanding of this ſtupendous creature.

Pliny, in particular, has given his readers a long detail of his numerous good qualities, and aſſures them, that he has more ſenſe, and is more tractable than ſome of the lower claſs of the human ſpecies. "Maximum animal (ſays he) eſt Elephas, proximumque humanis ſenſibus, &c." See his hiſt. nat. lib. 8.

This animal (though the largeſt of all four-footed beaſts) has been frequently obſerved to do ſuch things as are much above the capacity of any of his fellow-creatures; and for that reaſon is diſtinguiſhed by the name of Behemoth by the Hebrews, that term ſignifying "a beaſt of ſingular ſervice." He is ſtiled Elephas by the Romans, and Elephant by Us, in all probability, from the Hebrew term Aleph, which ſignifies to inſtruct, by reaſon of this creature's extraordinary docility; or from Eleph, which ſignifies a Head, or Captain; becauſe the Elephant is, as it were, the Head of all other terreſtrial animals. As this beaſt bears a great ſimilitude, in divers articles, with the Behemoth deſcribed in Job, he is by ſome injudicious commentators, peremptorily pronounced to be the ſame animal; but we ſhall ſhew, in

another place, that the Behemoth was a fiſh, or ſea-monſter, and an inhabitant of the river Nile. But to return to our deſcription. Though he be of ſuch an amazing bulk, he is not at all wild; neither will he feed upon carrion, as many other wild creatures will; but hay, herbs, peaſe and beans, are his favourite food, and principal ſubſiſtence.

As to his ſtrength, 'tis very extraordinary, and almoſt beyond conception. With one ſtroke of his trunk, if provoked, he will kill a horſe or a camel. An Elephant has been ſeen (as is recorded in hiſtory) to draw ſix thouſand weight above five hundred paces with his teeth, and there is mention made in the Maccabees of an Elephant in Antiochus's army, which carried thirty-two armed men in a caſtle or tower, compoſed of very ſolid wood, upon his back, and the tower was bound with a very ſtrong chain under his belly.

He is, as it were, the maſter-piece of God among four-footed beaſts. He not only exceeds all others in bulk and ſtrength, but in docility, dexterity and addreſs, fidelity, long life, modeſty, and even chaſtity itſelf; for it is peremptorily aſſerted, that he will never cover the female, in caſe he be apprehenſive

that

that there is any one eye upon his actions. Notwithſtanding all theſe amiable qualifications, he is the moſt furious and terrible creature upon earth, when highly incenſed; nothing then, in ſhort, can ſtand againſt him; for he will overſet trees, houſes, and walls. He tramples under foot all that falls in his way. His arms are his trunk and his teeth. The former is a long hollow cartilage, or griſtle, like a large trumpet; it hangs between his teeth, and ſerves him for hands; and with the latter, he will raiſe from the ground a prodigious weight. Theſe are the ivory, which is ſo well known, and what Mechanics daily work upon in Europe.

Notwithſtanding the idea juſt above given of the terror he creates, when too juſtly provoked, he is the gentleſt of animals at all other times, and never exerts his ſtrength except only upon compulſion. He ſtrikes no dread amongſt his fellow-beaſts of the field; but if he paſſes through a herd of cattle, he puts them gently out of his way with his trunk, that they may not interrupt his paſſage. He feeds promiſcuouſly with them in the fields and the meadows; and the weakeſt and tameſt animals play with impunity before im.

Ælian

Ælian ſays, that he may, with propriety, be called an animal of the marſhes; becauſe he lives along waters, and in moiſt places. He ſometimes plunges himſelf into rivers, in ſuch a manner, that no more of him is to be ſeen than the end of his trunk. In the ſummer time, he covers himſelf with mud, to avoid the heat. He drinks a great deal, and will ſwallow down, as it were, a river at a draught. His thirſt is not eaſily aſſuaged. He is not in the leaſt afraid of being moleſted, when he thinks convenient to drink; but takes abundance of time in the operation, and diſturbs the waters before he taſtes them. In a word, he is under no dread either of man or beaſt. Can the former take him openly and by force? No, doubtleſs; for his ſtrength is too great for man to reſiſt or overcome. He has his enemies, however, if we will credit Pliny, which ſometimes overpower him, before he is rightly on his guard; for there are Serpents in the Ganges, as he aſſures us, who will attack him principally in the eyes; and ſome of them there, which are threeſcore yards long, will ſometimes ſeize at once on his trunk, whilſt he is drinking, and by dragging him along, will at laſt drown him in the waters.

We

We ſhall cloſe this article of the four-footed beaſts with Dr. Young's poetical paraphraſe on the Words of Moſes, in the book of Job before quoted, Chap. xxxviii, v. 39 and 40, viz. "Wilt thou hunt the prey for the Lion? Or fill the appetite of the young Lions, when they couch in their dens, and abide in the covert to lie in wait?"

His elegant Deſcription runs thus.

"But fiercer ſtill the lordly Lion ſtalks,
Grimly majeſtic in his lonely walks;
When round he glares, all living creatures fly;
He clears the deſart with his rolling eye.
Say, mortal, does he rouſe at thy command,
And roar to thee, and live upon thy hand?
Doſt thou for him in foreſts bend thy bow,
And to his gloomy den the morſel throw,
Where bent on death lie hid his tawny brood,
And couch'd in dreadful ambuſh, pant for blood;
Or ſtretch'd on broken limbs conſume the day,
In darkneſs wrapt, and ſlumber o'er their prey?
By the pale moon they take their deſtin'd round,
And laſh their ſides, and furious tear the ground.
Now ſhrieks and dying groans the deſart fill,
They rage, they rend; their rav'nous jaws diſtil
With

With crimſon foam; and when the banquet's
o'er,
They ſtride away, and paint their ſteps with
gore;
In flight alone the ſhepherd puts his truſt,
And ſhudders at the talon in the duſt."

We ſhall now proceed to another ſpecies of animals, and take ſome of their remarkable beauties under our conſideration. The gay plumes and beautiful forms of birds are no leſs entertaining to the eye, than the harmony of their notes is to the ear. Who does not admire the beauty of the Oſtrich's feathers, notwithſtanding ſhe has no other good quality but her ſwiftneſs to recommend her? Who is not charmed with the variegated colours of the Pheaſant's wings, and the Peacock's ſtarry train? The Turtle-dove likewiſe, the Parrot, the Nightingale, and numberleſs others of the feathered choir demand our moſt ſerious attention. Some are all over ſcarlet or azure, green or white; others adorned with a mixture of divers bright and gaudy colours, diſpoſed in the moſt artful and agreeable manner, that can poſſibly be conceived.

As

As the three firſt have been deſcribed by the greateſt poets of the age, we cannot prevail on ourſelves to paſs over in ſilence ſuch elegant and entertaining compoſitions.

"Gaveſt thou wings and feathers to the Oſtrich?" ſays the Lord to Job. &c. ſee chap. xxxix, v. 13 to 18 incluſive, which paſſage is thus paraphraſed by Dr. Young.

"Who, in the cruel Oſtrich, has ſubdu'd
A parent's care and fond inquietude?
While far ſhe flies her ſcatter'd eggs are found
Without an owner on the ſandy ground;
Caſt out on fortune, they at mercy lie,
And borrow life from an indulgent ſky;
Adopted by the ſun in blaze of day,
They ripen under his prolific ray;
Unmindful ſhe, that ſome unhappy tread
May cruſh her young, in their neglected bed.
What time ſhe ſkims along the field with ſpeed,
She ſcorns the rider, and purſuing ſteed."

As "God, indeed, hath deprived her of wiſdom, and imparted to her no degree of underſtanding," according to the text, it is not to be wondered at, that there are many inſtances to be given of her folly and weakneſs. Beſides, the unnatural neglect of her young, there

there are the two following, we preſume, juſtly laid to her charge, which are ſufficient indications of her ſtupidity, were there no other to be produced. In the firſt place, this Bird, though of a monſtrous bulk, covers its head in the reeds, and idly imagines, when ſhe has ſo done, that her whole body is out of ſight. In the next, they that go in purſuit of her, draw the ſkin of an Oſtrich's neck with one hand, and that only proves a ſufficient Lure to take her with the other. They have ſo little brains, in ſhort, that Heliogabulus had ſix hundred of them dreſt for one ſupper. Before we leave her, however, as ſhe has but a very indifferent character, let us relate all the advantageous things we can ſay in her favour. In the firſt place, ſhe is the largeſt Bird that nature ever produced; her head, when in its natural ſituation, riſes as high, and ſometimes higher, than a man on horſeback. Her head is like that of a duck, and her neck, though much longer and ſtatelier, is ſomething like a ſwan's. She is remarkable likewiſe for the ſtrength of her wings, which ſhe uſes as ſails or oars, to enable her to impel the air, and when ſhe runs, they add exceeding velocity to her motion. Xenophon ſays, that Cyrus had horſes that could

could overtake the Goat and the Wild Aſs; but none ſo ſwift as could reach the Oſtrich. In the laſt place, ſhe furniſhes us with the moſt lovely feathers, very broad and long, ſome white and others black, but which are tinged by art with all the various colours of the rainbow. They are placed as ornaments on the teſters of beds, the canopies of illuſtrious perſonages, and the caps of children: They adorn the hats of officers, and furniſh the ladies with very pretty fans. In a word, they add height to the ſtature of tragedians, and it muſt be confeſſed, the theatrical heroes would loſe a conſiderable part of their grandeur were they diveſted of their beauteous feathers.

Let us hear now what Mr. Pope ſays of the Pheaſant, in his entertaining poem, entitled, Windſor Foreſt.

" See from the brake the whizzing Pheaſant ſprings,
And mounts, exulting, on triumphant wings;
Short is his joy! He feels the fiery wound,
Flutters in blood, and panting beats the ground.
Ah! What avail his gloſſy, varying dyes,
His purple creſt, and ſcarlet-circled eyes,

The vivid green his ſhining plumes unfold;
His painted wings, and breaſt that flames with gold?"

To this we will add a ſhort Deſcription of the Peacock by Dr. Young.

"How rich the Peacock!—What bright glories run
From plume to plume, and vary in the ſun?
He proudly ſpreads them to the golden ray,
Gives all his colours, and adorns the day.
With conſcious ſtate the ſpacious round diſplays,
And ſlowly moves amid the waving blaze."

As the Oſtrich is the object of our admiration for his ſtature, and the Peacock and the Pheaſant for their fine feathers, let us cloſe our account of this ſpecies of animals, with a Deſcription of the Nightingale, which is one of the leaſt, but the moſt harmonious creatures in the univerſe.

Of all the various ſpecies of Birds, we generally look upon thoſe as the moſt agreeable companions, that are moſt melodious, or can prattle moſt. However entertaining ſuch may prove, they are notwithſtanding foils only

only to the Nightingale, whoſe ſingle voice is more raviſhing than the whole choir beſides. When we have been entertained with a melodious ſymphony of inſtrumental muſic, how agreeably are we ſurpriſed to hear an inimitable violin, without any other hand to accompany it! 'Tis the very ſame in a concert of Birds. After we have heard a full chorus celebrate the Great Author of their exiſtence, and proclaim their grateful acknowledgments to him, by whoſe bounteous hand they are nouriſhed and preſerved; what can be a more agreeable novelty than to hear the Nightingale, in the evening, begin to tune her ſolitary ſtrains, and continue them till the night is far advanced? One would imagine, that he was conſcious of his own natural perfections, and that 'twas out of complaiſance to us men, as well as to gratify his own inclinations, that he condeſcends to ſing, when all his little fellow-choriſters are ſilent. Nothing animates him ſo much, as to find all Nature huſh, and ſtill around him. 'Tis then that he compoſes, and puts all his melody into execution. He wanders from ſolemn notes to ſuch as are more ſprightly; from a ſmooth, eaſy air, to the wildeſt notes, that can poſſibly be conceived; from the ſpright-

lieſt quavers and diviſions to the ſofteſt and moſt melancholy ſtrains; when he has indulged himſelf in thoſe plaintive airs for a ſhort time, he recollects himſelf on a ſudden, and falls into his former vivacity again! Who could be ſo incurious, as not to want a ſight of this matchleſs Muſician, that in ſuch an obliging manner raviſhes our ears thus every morning and evening? We are all tempted to viſit him; but he is ſo reſerved, that 'tis next to an impoſſibility to ſee him. Your Virtuoſi, in all ſciences, have their capricious humours. We imagine, that Nature has furniſhed him with an open breaſt, and indefatigable organs, to enable him to ſuſtain ſuch ſtrong and grateful ſounds without intermiſſion; ſuch infinite and juſt proportions; ſuch a vaſt compaſs of muſic; and yet, at laſt, we find it all proceeds from the throat of a very little Bird, who, without inſtruction, ſtudy, or the leaſt preparation, performs all theſe ſtupendous operations.

From the land-animals, let us now gradually proceed to thoſe that are the inhabitants of the waters. The Fiſh likewiſe of the mighty ocean partake of this univerſal beauty, which Nature has ſcattered over all her works, in the juſt proportion and ſymmetry of their parts.

parts. Here the Behemoth, by ſome injudiciouſly taken for the Elephant (as we have before obſerved) and the Leviathan, as unhappily miſconſtrued for the Whale by others, are as juſtly the objects of our admiration, as the Elephant and Oſtrich, above deſcribed, demanded our attention upon the earth. Here too the Dolphins are celebrated for their beauty, with numberleſs other fiſh of ſtupendous ſize.

In regard to the two firſt, we ſhall have recourſe to the Sacred Scriptures, and refer our young pupils once more to the book of Job for their farther entertainment.

Moſes's deſcription of the firſt is in the ſortieth chapter of the book of Job, from v. 15 to 24 incluſive. "Behold now Behemoth (ſaith the Lord in the cloud to his ſervant Job) which I made with thee, he eateth graſs like an ox, &c."

To this we ſhall add Dr. Young's beautiful paraphraſe of the text with his ſhort, but very juſt and critical remark upon it.

"Mild is my *Behemoth; tho' large his frame,
Smooth is his temper, and repreſt his flame,
While

* Behemoth is a word of Egyptian termination, ſignifying not the Elephant, but a creature in that

While unprovok'd; this native of the flood
Lifts his broad foot, and puts aſhore for food;
Earth ſinks beneath him as he moves along,
To ſeek the herds, and mingle with the throng.
See, with what ſtrength his harden'd loins are bound,
All over proof, and ſhut againſt a wound!
How like a mountain-cedar moves his tail!
Nor can his complicated ſinews fail:
Built high and wide, his ſolid bones ſurpaſs
The bars of ſteel; his ribs are ribs of braſs;
His port majeſtic, and his armed jaw,
Give the wide foreſt and the mountain law;
The mountains feed him; there the beaſts admire
The mighty ſtranger, and in dread retire.
At length his greatneſs nearer they ſurvey,
Graze in his ſhadow, and his eye obey.

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country, called, by the Greek writers, Hippotamos, that is, the River-Horſe; for it appears by the ſecond Book of Eſdras, Chap. vi. v. 49. that the Hebrews reckon the Behemoth, not among the land animals, but among thoſe belonging to the water, which were created on the fifth day. And there are none that we know of that ſort, to whom the characters here mentioned belong, but the creature here particularly named. Dr. Patrick.

The

The ſens and marſhes are his cool retreat,
His noon-tide ſhelter from the burning heat;
Their ſedgy boſoms his wide couch are made,
And groves of willows give him all their ſhade:
* His eye drinks Jordan up; when fir'd with drought,
He truſts to turn its current down his throat;
In leſſen'd waves, it creeps along the plain,
He ſinks a river, and he thirſts again."

The inſpired Penman's Deſcription of the laſt, takes up the whole xliſt chapter of the

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* The latter part of this Deſcription is evidently an Hyperbole, and it ſeems ſurpriſing to me, that any commentators ſhould ſtrain ſo hard, as ſome have done, for a new conſtruction of it.—Now an Hyperbole, literally ſpeaking, is an impoſſibility;—it is the importance, therefore, of the ſubject that juſtifies the uſe of that rhetorical figure.——Thus, for inſtance, St. John having wrote an account of the life, ſufferings, and death of our Bleſſed Lord and Saviour, in order to give the reader an idea of the importance of a life ſo full of meritorious actions, makes uſe of the following Hyperbole.——"There are alſo (ſays he) many other things which Jeſus did, the which, if they ſhould be written, every one, I ſuppoſe, that even the world itſelf could not contain the books that ſhould be written."

Book of Job. "Canſt thou draw out Leviathan with a hook, &c. to the end.

Here we ſhall take the liberty once more to tranſcribe Dr. Young's beautiful paraphraſe of this long, remarkable paſſage; and cloſe our account with his judicious annotations upon it.

"Go to the Nile, and from its fruitful ſide,
Caſt forth thy line into the ſwelling tide;
With ſlender hair Leviathan command,
And ſtretch his vaſtneſs on the loaded ſtrand:
Will he become thy ſervant? Will he own
Thy lordly nod, and tremble at thy frown?
Or with his ſport amuſe thy leiſure-day,
And bound in Silk, with thy ſoft maiden's play?
Shall pompous banquets ſwell with ſuch a prize,
And the bowl journey round his ample ſize?
Or the debating merchants ſhare the prey,
And various limbs to various marts convey?
Thro' his firm ſkull what ſteel its way can win?
What forceful engine can ſubdue his ſkin?
Fly far and live; tempt not his matchleſs might;
The braveſt ſhrink to cowards in his ſight;
The raſheſt dare not rouze him up; who then
Shall turn on ME, among the ſons of men?

Am

Am I a debtor? Haſt thou ever heard
Whence come the Gifts which are on ME conferr'd?
My laviſh fruit a thouſand vallies fills,
And mine the herds that graze a thouſand hills;
Earth, ſea, and air, all Nature is my own,
And ſtars and ſun are duſt beneath my throne;
And dar'ſt thou with the world's great father vye,
Thou, who doſt tremble at my creature's eye?
At full my huge Leviathan ſhall riſe,
Boaſt all his ſtrength, and ſpread his wondrous ſize.
Who, great in arms, e'er ſtript his ſhining mail,
Or crown'd his triumph with a ſingle ſcale?
Whoſe heart ſuſtains him to draw near? Behold
Deſtruction yawns! His ſpacious Jaws unfold!
And, marſhall'd round the wide expanſe, diſcloſe
Teeth, edg'd with death, and crowding rows on rows;
What hideous fangs on either ſide ariſe,
And what a deep abyſs between them lies!
Mete with thy lance, and with thy plummet ſound
The one how long, the other how profound!

His

His bulk is charg'd with ſuch a furious ſoul
Thick clouds of ſmoke from his ſptead noſtrils roll,
As from a furnace; and, when rouz'd his ire,
Fate iſſues from his Jaws in ſtreams of fire:
The rage of tempeſts, and the roar of ſeas,
Thy terror, this thy great Superior pleaſe;
Strength on his ample ſhoulder ſits in ſtate,
His well-join'd limbs are dreadfully compleat;
His flakes of ſolid fleſh are ſlow to part,
As ſteel his nerves, as adamant his heart.
When late awak'd, he rears him from the floods,
And ſtretching forth his ſtature to the clouds,
Writhes in the ſun aloft his ſcaly height,
And ſtrikes the diſtant hills with tranſient light,
Far round are fatal damps of terror ſpread;
The mighty fear, nor bluſh to own their dread.
Large is his front; and when his burniſh'd eyes
Lift their broad lids, the morning ſeems to riſe.
In vain may death in various ſhapes invade,
The ſwift-wing'd arrow, the deſcending blade;
His naked breaſt their impotence defies;
The dart rebounds, the brittle ſauchion flies:
Shut in himſelf, the war without he hears,
Safe in the tempeſt of their rattling ſpears;

The

The cumber'd ſtrand their waſted vollies ſtrow;
His ſport, the rage and labour of the foe.
His paſtimes, like a cauldron, boil the flood,
And black the ocean with the riſing mud;
The billows feel him, as he works his way;
His hoary footſteps ſhine along the ſea;
The foam, high-wrought with white, divides the green,
And diſtant ſailors point where death hath been.
His like earth bears not on her ſpacious face,
Alone in Nature ſtands his dauntleſs race;
For utter ignorance of fear renown'd;
In wrath he rolls his baleful eyes around,
Makes ev'ry ſwoll'n, diſdainful heart ſubſide,
And holds dominion o'er the ſons of pride."

Several creatures (ſays this curious Naturaliſt) deſcribed in this, and the preceding chapters, are Egyptian; this and that of the Behemoth are notoriouſly ſo; they are the River-Horſe and the Crocodile, thoſe celebrated inhabitants of the Nile; and on thoſe two it is that the Inſpired Penman chiefly dwells. It would have been expected from an Hiſtorian, more remote from that river than Moſes, in a catalogue of creatures, produc'd to magnify their Creator, to have dwelt on the two largeſt works of his hand, namely, the Elephant

phant and the Whale. This is ſo natural an expectation, that ſome commentators have render'd Behemoth and Leviathan, the Elephant and Whale, tho' the Deſcriptions in our author will not admit of it; but Moſes living among the Egyptians, who were, as we may well ſuppoſe under an immediate terror of the Hippotamos and Crocodile, from their daily miſchiefs and ravages, it is very accountable why he ſhould permit them to take place.

By a gradual progreſſion, we ſhall now deſcend to the leſſer fiſh that ſport and play within our rivers; of which there are a profuſion, the ſymmetry of whoſe parts, and the ſilver luſtre of whoſe ſcales demand our attention with as much juſtice as thoſe larger, and more ſtupendous Miracles of Nature. Let us hear what Mr. Pope ſays of them.

"Our plenteous ſtreams a various race ſupply;
The bright-ey'd Perch, with fins of Tyrian dye;
The ſilver Eel, in ſhining volumes roll'd,
The yellow Carp, in ſcales bedropt with gold,
Swift Trouts, diverſify'd with crimſon ſtains,
And Pikes, the tyrants of the watry plains."

To

To proceed ſtill one degree lower. The very inſects, tho' ſo much inferior to the other animals hitherto deſcribed, in point of bulk, do not at all fall ſhort of them with regard to form and ornament. With how exact a proportion and harmony of parts has nature framed their little bodies? What a ſhining gloſs and poliſh has ſhe caſt over their limbs, and with what gay and lively colours has ſhe painted them? I might inſtance the Butterfly, the Spaniſh-Fly, the Adderſpear, nay, the common Fly, and ten thouſand others.

We ſhall take the liberty, without making the leaſt apology, to introduce here the following poetical deſcription of the firſt-mentioned inſect, though we ingenuouſly confeſs we don't know the author to whom we are indebted for our Aſſiſtance.

"See! to the Sun (ſays he) the Butterfly diſplays
Its glittering wings, and wantons in its rays;
In life exulting, o'er the meadows flies,
Sips from each flow'r, and breathes the vernal ſkies.
Its ſplendid plumes, in graceful order ſhow
The various glories of the painted bow.

Where love directs, a libertine it roves,
And courts the fair ones thro' the verdant groves."

What we have here produced, however, is but a faint and imperfect ſketch of the Natural Beauties of the Univerſe. He that would have a juſt and adequate idea of them, muſt conſult the original. The beauties of Nature are too various and too exquiſite to be painted to the life by any pencil, or deſcribed by any eloquence. A thouſand ſecret charms and inexpreſſible graces will be wanting in the moſt compleat and lively repreſentation we can poſſibly give of her.

Now we may obſerve, that abundance of theſe things, which contribute to the beauty and ornament of the Univerſe, ſeem ſcarcely of any other uſe. Of this ſort are many herbs and flowers, and precious ſtones; of which we know no other uſe or deſign in nature, but to garniſh the world, entertain the ſenſes, and refreſh the imagination of man and other animals. And even in the things that are of neceſſary uſe for preſerving the frame of Nature, or the ſeveral ſpecies of animals, we find ornament and conveniency joined together. Thus, for inſtance, the fruits of the

earth

earth afford us a pleaſant and wholeſome nouriſhment; but this they would have done as well, though they they had not been ſo curiouſly painted with colours, as many of them are. And as to animals themſelves; it was neceſſary, indeed, for the preſervation of their lives, that they ſhould be furniſhed with limbs, and organs of ſenſation; but it was by no means neceſſary to this end, that their limbs ſhould be formed with all that exact ſymmetry and proportion, and adorned with ſuch a variety of gay colours, as we find in many of them. The Pheaſant might have procured his food, and propagated his kind, without his gaudy plumes, and the Peacock without his ſtarry train.

Now can any man imagine, that all this beauty and ornament which ſo viſibly appears in every part of Nature, and accoſts his eye on which ſide ſoever he turns it, can have any other author than a wiſe and gracious God? Would Fate or Chance, thoſe blind and thoughtleſs Principles, have not only ſo plentifully provided what was neceſſary for the preſervation of the ſyſtem of the world, and the ſeveral ſpecies of plants and animals contained in it, but have conſulted likewiſe for the ornament of the one, and the delight

and entertainment of the other? It muſt (if I may be indulged the expreſſion) be a very wiſe and munificent Chance, indeed, that, not content to make a plain, habitable world, has obſerved all this order and decency in its work, and garniſhed it out with all theſe curious embelliſhments and decorations. Why ſhould the colour of the ſky be a beautiful azure, and that of the graſs and trees a lively green, rather than a brown, or grey, or any other leſs pleaſing to the ſight, if a wiſe Providence had not the diſpoſal of things? Or why ſhould the eyes of animals be both of an equal ſize, and of the ſame make and colour, and placed at an equal diſtance on either ſide the noſe? And the like queſtions may be aſked, in reſpect of all the order and harmony in Nature. It would be a difficult matter to convince a reaſonable man, that even a common cottage, which only ſerves to ſhelter its inhabitants from the winds and weather, was the mere effect of Chance; but he would certainly think any one diſtracted, who ſhould ſeriouſly endeavour to perſuade him, that a fair and magnificent palace, exactly regular and ſymmettical in its deſign, adorned with elegant painting and ſculpture, and furniſhed with every thing which pleaſure and ornament

ornament, as well as neceſſity and uſe require, had no other original than the lucky concourſe of a parcel of atoms.

Having thus given our young pupils a tranſient idea of the Natural Beauties of the World in general, we ſhall enter forthwith (without any formal apology in the like caſes) on the proſecution of the plan propoſed; for we are firmly perſuaded, that the wonderful ſcenes of Providence, which are ſo viſible and ſo numerous in every county throughout the whole kingdom of Great-Britain, can never be conſidered by any reader, how ill-natured or cenſorious ſoever he may poſſibly be, as a trivial, uſeleſs, or unpleaſing entertainment, unleſs we and our aſſiſtants too ſhould be more ſhamefully remiſs than ordinary, and ſo very unhappy as to render them ſuch, by our injudicious compilements; which we flatter ourſelves is not fairly to be ſuppoſed. But beſides, ſince it muſt be allowed, that an attempt, how weak or imperfect ſoever, to promote any one branch of uſeful knowledge, is, in ſome degree, generous and praiſe-worthy, there are ſufficient grounds for us, with modeſty, to hope, that our honeſt endeavours to inſpire the ſons and daughters of men with an early ſenſe of thoſe infinite obligations

they lie under to their Great Creator, will be juſtly entituled to ſome candour and indulgence; eſpecially from all ſuch parents, guardians, and governeſſes, who are more ſolicitous that the children entruſted to their care and conduct ſhould be virtuous than rich; ſince wealth, without virtue, will never make them truly happy; whereas virtue alone is capable of making them eaſy in this world, and ſure of making them compleatly happy in that which is to come.

Now, not doubting in the leaſt, but that the ſhort Plea for our intended undertaking, above-made will be approved, we ſhall only add the following truly pious as well as poetical Hymn of Thankſgiving to the Great Author of Nature, compoſed (as we are informed) by an eminent Divine of the Church of England, not long ſince deceaſed, and earneſtly recommend it to the peruſal of all our young pupils as a very proper Morning-Sacrifice, before they enter upon their ſtudies.

" Ariſe, my Muſe, awake thy ſleeping lyre,
And fan with tuneful airs the languid fire.
On daring pinions rais'd, low themes deſpiſe,
But ſtretch thy wings in yon bright, azure ſkies.
Thee,

Thee, beſt and greateſt, let my grateful lays,
Parent of univerſal Nature, praiſe!
All things are full of Thee! where-e'er mine eye,
Is turn'd, I ſtill thy preſent Godhead ſpy.
Each herb the footſteps of thy wiſdom bears,
And ev'ry blade of graſs thy pow'r declares.
As yon clear lake the pendent Image ſhews,
Of ev'ry flow'r that on its border grows;
So in the fair Creation's Glaſs, we find
A faint reflection of th' Eternal Mind.
Whate'er of goodneſs, and of excellence,
In Nature's various ſcenes accoſt the ſenſe,
To Thee alone their whole perfection owe;
From Thee, as from their proper fountain, flow.
Fair are the Stars that grace the ſable night,
And beauteous is the Dawn of roſy Light;
Lovely the proſpect of each flow'ry field,
Theſe limpid ſtreams, and ſhady foreſts yield;
To Thee compar'd, nor fair the Stars of night,
Nor beauteous is the Dawn of roſy Light;
Nor lovely is the ſcene each flow'ry field,
The limpid ſtreams, and ſhady foreſts yield.
Incapable of bounds, above all height,
Thou art inviſible to mortal ſight;
Thyſelf thy Palace! and ſuſtain'd by Thee,
All live and move in thy Immenſity.

Thy

Thy voice omnipotent did infant-day,
Through the dark realms of empty ſpace display;
This glorious arch of heav'nly ſapphire rear,
And ſpread this canopy of liquid air.
At thy command, the Starry Hoſt, the Sun,
And Moon unerringly their courſes run;
Ceaſeleſs they move, obſequious to fulfil
The taſk aſſign'd by thy Almighty Will:
Thy vital pow'r, diffus'd from pole to pole,
Inſpires, and animates this ample Whole.
If thou wert abſent, the material maſs
Would without motion lie in boundleſs ſpace;
The Sun, arreſted in his ſpiral way,
No longer would diſpenſe alternate day;
A breathleſs calm would huſh the ſtormy wind,
And a new froſt the flowing rivers bind.
Whate'er, thro' falſe Philoſophy, is thought
To be by Chance, or Parent Nature wrought,
From Thee alone proceeds:—With timely rain,
Thou ſat'ſt the thirſty field, and ſpringing grain.
Inſpir'd by Thee, the northern tempeſts ſweep
The bending corn, and toſs the foamy deep:

Inſpir'd by Thee, the ſofter ſouthern breeze
Wafts fragrants odours thro' the trembling trees;
By Thee conducted thro' the darkſome caves,
And veins of hollow earth, the briny waves,
In bubbling ſprings, and fruitful fountains riſe,
And ſpout their ſweetned ſtreams againſt the ſkies.

By Thee the brutal kind are taught to chuſe
Their proper good, and noxious things refuſe;
Hence each conforms his action to his place,
Knows to preſerve his life, and propagate his race;
Hence the wiſe conduct of the painful Bee,
Who future want does conſtantly foreſee,
Contrives her waxen cells, with curious ſkill,
And with rich ſtores of gather'd honey fill.
Hence the gay birds, that ſport in fluid aïr,
Soft neſts to lodge their callow young prepare,
Rear with unwearied toil the tender brood,
From harms protect, and furniſh 'em with food.

But Man, whom thy peculiar grace deſign'd
The Image of thy own Eternal Mind;
Man, thy chief favourite, Thou did'ſt inſpire
With a bright ſpark of thy celeſtial fire.

Rich

Rich with a thinking ſoul, with piercing eye,
He views the ſpacious earth, and diſtant ſky;
And ſees the various marks of ſkill divine,
That in each part of Nature's ſyſtem ſhine:
Him therefore it becomes, in grateful lays,
To ſing his bounteous Maker's ſolemn praiſe."

BRITISH
25 MY 83
MUSEUM

THE

THE
Natural Beauties
OF
CORNWALL.

DIALOGUE I.

BETWEEN

TUTOR and PUPIL.

PUPIL.

IN what part does this country lie, and by what name was it formerly known?

TUTOR.

It extends farther to the weſt than any other part of Great-Britain, and is a portion only of what, in the time of the Romans, was called Dunmonium.

P. From

P. From whence did it derive that name?

T. The moſt natural origin of it is from the term Dun (which, from divers inſtances of towns ending in Dunum, appears to have ſignified a hill) and the Greek term Moina, mines, which is much the ſame thing as to ſay, hills of tin-mines; for which, no doubt, it was antiently more noted than on any other account.

P. From whence does it take its preſent denomination of Cornwall?

T. It is variouſly accounted for. Some ſuppoſe it to be derived from one Corinæus, a companion of Brute, and quote the following lines to ſupport their opinion.

Pars Corinæa datur Corinæo; de duce nomen
Patria; deque viro gens Corinenſis habet.

In Engliſh thus.

Cornwall by grant to Corinæus came;
The county from the prince receiv'd its name.

Others again will have it taken from the antient Britiſh term Karn, which ſignifies a rock, and from Gaul or Waul, by changing G. into W. which, in the German dialect is very common.

The

The moſt eaſy and rational manner, however, of accounting for it ſeems to be this. When the Saxons had driven the Britons into the two extreme parts of their country, they called one Retreat-wales, and the other Corn-wales; either from the ſhape of it, which reſembles a Hunting-Horn, in Latin called Cornu; or more probably from the large promontories, which project, like ſo many Horns, into the ſea, which the Britons call Kern.

P. In what degrees of longitude and latitude is this county ſituated?

T. In fifty degrees thirty minutes north latitude, and ſix degrees longitude; being ſurrounded on all ſides by the ſea, the eaſt only excepted, where 'tis parted from the county of Devon by the river Tamar.

P. How are the northern weſtern and ſouthern coaſts reſpectively waſhed?

T. The northern is waſhed by the Briſtol Channel, the weſtern by St. George's, and the ſouthern by the Britiſh Sea.

P. Of what length is it from eaſt to weſt?

T. It meaſures about ſeventy miles.

P. Of what breadth is it in that part which lies neareſt to Devonſhire?

T. About forty miles.

P. Of what breadth is it from Mountſbay to St. Ives, where 'tis narroweſt?

T. There, indeed, it is but very little more than five miles.

P. Of what circumference is it?

T. By ſome it is computed only at 150 miles; but by others, it is ſaid, on account of its unequal form, to be near 233.

P. How many acres does it contain?

T. About 960,000; but, in king Edward the firſt's time, it contained 1,500,000; from whence it is conjectured, that the Scilly-Iſlands were once a part of it, tho' not at preſent, they being ſince divided from it by the ſea, which for that reaſon is called the Lioneſs.

P. What are the bounds of Falmouth Harbour only?

T. As it runs ſo very irregularly, and branches itſelf out into ſo many ſmall parts, it meaſures (according to the computation of the inhabitants of Falmouth and Truro) 220 miles only, but by admeaſurement, it is no leſs than 282.

P. What account can you give me of its particular air?

T. It is very ſharp and cutting; and by conſequence, very healthful to the natives. Hard froſts, however, of any duration, very ſeldom

ſeldom happen there; neither does the ſnow lie long upon the ground.

P. How comes that to paſs, ſince the air, you ſay, is ſo very bleak?

T. Through the vicinity of the ſea, which on three of its ſides, is a guard againſt them.

P. Are they not frequently expoſed, however, to what they call Flaws of wind?

T. Yes; and ſometimes they prove not only very boiſterous, but very fatal in their conſequences; tho' the inhabitants are very ſeldom afflicted, thro' their means, with any very malignant or infectious diſeaſes.

P. From whence are thoſe caſual winds termed Flaws.

T. In the Corniſh vocabulary that term ſignifies (to cut) from whence we may conclude with very juſt grounds, that it owes its original to the Greek word, φλαω, which bears the ſame ſenſe.

P. Are the ſeaſons there the ſame as in other parts?

T. No; for tho' the ſummer, generally ſpeaking, is very mild and temperate; yet the autumnal fruits and the corn-harveſt are later there than in any other parts of England; and the laſt is very ſeldom ripe enough for the barn till the feaſt of St. Michael.

P. What account can you give me of its ſoil?

T. For the moſt part it is mountainous, very ſhallow, covered over only with a thin coat of earth, and rocky underneath, which renders it very difficult to be cultivated; and, in dry years, it is ſcarce worth the huſbandman's toil. The valleys, however, yield a profuſion of graſs; and the land that lies neareſt the ſea-ſhore, when improved by a particular ſea-weed, called Orewood, mixed with a fat ſort of ſea-ſand, produces very large crops.

P. From whence is that ſea-ſand formed?

T. From the grating of the ſhells, which the waſh of the ſea rolls and daſhes againſt one another.

P. In what condition are thoſe lands which lie at a great diſtance from the ſea-coaſts?

T. They lie waſte and open; the earth, in thoſe middle parts, is of a blackiſh hue, and bears little elſe but heath, and ſpiry graſs, fit only for breeding of young cattle.

P. Which are its principal rivers?

T. The Tamar, the Camel and the Fale.

P. What courſe does the Tamar take?

T. A

T. A very long one from north to ſouth, and is the boundary between the two countie of Cornwall and Devonſhire.

P. Where does it empty itſelf?

T. Into Plymouth ſound.

P. What courſe does the Camel run, and what does it form?

T. From ſouth to north, thro' Camelford, and forms Padſtow haven.

P. Where does it diſcharge itſelf?

T. Into the Briſtol Channel.

P. What courſe does the Fale take, and what does it form?

T. From north to South, in the narrow part of the county, and forms the haven of Falmouth.*

P. Where does that diſcharge its waters?

T. Into St. George's Channel.

P. What is the river Tamar peculiarly remarkable for?

T. Its excellent ſalmon.

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* Falmouth is ſo called from its being ſituated on the mouth of the Fale, and Camelford receives its name from the river Camel, that runs through it; and this is to be a general obſervation for all places and towns that terminate in mouth and ford.

P. With what fiſh do the other bays and rivers abound?

T. For the greateſt part with ſuch as are common to other countries; ſuch as trouts, lobſters, oyſters, plaice, ſoals, &c. But what the inhabitants of this country reap the moſt advantage from are their pilchards, called the Spaniſh capon.

P. From whence do they derive that name?

T. From the Spaniards ſerving theſe fiſh up, dreſt with oil and lemon, as a moſt delicious diſh.

P. What is the particular time of their ſwarming on theſe coaſts?

T. From July to November; at which time they appear in ſuch quantities as is almoſt incredible.

P. Give me a particular account of the extraordinary trade that is carried on in the pilchard fiſhery?

T. There is no branch of buſineſs ſo conſiderable in this county as this, that of the ſtannary only excepted. In ſuch prodigious ſhoals do the pilchards frequently apply to the ſouthern parts of the Corniſh coaſt, that the people in the inland, mountainous parts, make it their buſineſs, during the proper ſeaſon, to watch their arrival, by which means

the

the gentlemen concerned in that fiſhery are prepared to take them in their ſeans, or large nets, which extend ſome thouſands of feet in length, and take in a large circumference of the ſea.

P. What quantity of theſe fiſh have been taken at one draught?

T. I have been credibly informed full 4000 barrels, in each of which were contained 4000 pilchards; the total amount therefore was conſequently 16,000,000.

P. How are they for the generality diſpoſed of?

T. Notwithſtanding it muſt be allowed, (whether dreſt the Spaniſh or our own way) that they are a very dainty diſh; yet but a ſmall quantity of them are conſumed at home. For the Corniſh merchants export the greateſt part of them to foreign markets, for which they fit them by ſuming, preſſing, and pickling. They are ſalted but not gutted, the entrails being reckoned the moſt delicious part; and after they have been piled in large heaps in a cellar for nine or ten days together, and gently preſſed by ſtone-weights to drain off the ſuperfluous moiſture of blood and ſalt, they are barrelled up with pickle

for

for France, but without it, for Spain, Italy, and other hotter countries.

P. What ſhell-fiſh in particular are found on the ſouth coaſt of Cornwall?

T. Large quantities of ſuch ſmall ones as afford that excellent tint, called the Tyrian dye.

P. In what part is that particular matter contained?

T. In a ſmall cyſtus or bag, which appears like a part of the inteſtines.

P. What quantity of ſuch matter may there be in one of them, and how is it taken out?

T. It is pricked out with the head of a pin, and the quantity of it cannot by conſequence be very conſiderable; let but what is ſo taken out, however, be ſpread on a piece of fine linnen, it will, in a day or two, begin to appear of a pale, reddiſh colour; when the linnen is waſhed the firſt time, it is heightened into a paliſh purple; every waſhing, after, renders the colour ſtill more intenſely ſtrong and vivid; and when once confirmed, it is not in the leaſt ſubject either to fade or to decay.

P. What are to be found upon the rocks in divers parts of this coaſt?

T. Great

T. Great numbers of thoſe animals, which are reckoned of the Polypus-kind. Theſe ſtick cloſe to the rock on a broad baſe, and have the faculty or power of unfolding, or contracting the upper parts, whenever 'tis convenient.

P. What do they reſemble when they are expanded?

T. They appear very much like an anemone, when 'tis full-blown; for they conſiſt of a great number of internal parts, which reſemble the leaves of that flower, but plainly ſhew that they have an animal motion.

P. Wherein is that motion viſible?

T. If you offer to touch them, they will inſtantly be all contracted within, and covered with the external pouch, or caſe, which is very thick and ſubſtantial.

P. Give me an account of that ſea-polypus in particular, which was ſome time ſince taken in the rocky cliffs at St. Agnes, which ſo remarkably claimed the attention of the curious.

T. It conſiſted of a ſmall body, about the bigneſs of the palm of one's hand, to which was annexed a hollow pouch, and on the middle part of the body was a curious beak, or bill, about an inch and an half long,

long, and three quarters of an inch wide, of a roundiſh form, in colour like that of a tortoiſe, and curved in ſome meaſure like a parrot's bill. From the body there proceeded eight legs, at an equal diſtance, to all outward appearance, from each other; about an inch and a quarter wide at the body, and thirty inches long or thereabouts, of a tapering form, terminating in a point at the extremity. The legs were of a fleſhy and membraneous ſubſtance, and thick ſet with ſmall pouches, or holes (the largeſt about half an inch wide) gradually diminiſhing towards the extremity, in each leg.

P. Of what particular uſe were thoſe holes in its legs, and how many of them were there in each leg?

T. They ſeemed deſtined to anſwer the end of gills in common fiſh, and there were no leſs than thirty or forty in each leg.

P. In what poſture was this extraordinary ſea-animal when firſt found?

T. Its legs were all contracted and encloſed in the pouch, or looſe bag, on one ſide of the body, and it lay ſeemingly aſleep.

P. How did it appear, after it was ſtruck, and diſturbed?

T. It

T. It expanded its legs with great violence, and put itſelf (as it were) in a poſture of defence; but by repeated blows it was ſubdued.

P. Is there no other extraordinary fiſh to be met with on the Corniſh coaſt?

T. Yes; a curious kind of Bivalve fiſh, commonly called the Pholas, or what ought rather, in the opinion of the Virtuoſi, to be called the Piſcis terebrans.

P. Why ſo?

T Becauſe it has a peculiar faculty, or marvellous power of boring its way into the ſtones of the rocky part of the coaſt.

P. In what manner does this ſurprizing creature ſubſiſt?

T. It leads a very ſolitary life, and reſides from its infancy to its laſt moment, altogether within the hole it makes in the ſtone for its reception.

P. Of what compaſs may the hole be that this creature thus bores at firſt?

T. In ſome, it does not exceed the tenth part of an inch; but, by degrees, it makes its way into the ſtone, about eighteen or twenty inches from the ſurface, and grows itſelf in proportion; till at laſt, it is three or four inches long, and an inch at leaſt thick.

P. Is the fiſh always as big as the hole?

T. Yes,

T. Yes, exactly; and for that reaſon muſt be the fruſtrum of a cone.

P. By what inſtrument does it hollow the ſtone?

T. In all probability by its ſhell; for the fore-part of it, on each ſide, is beſet with ſharp-edged protuberances, like thoſe of a raſp, and fitted to cut away the ſtone; and this is ſtill the more likely, as the figure of the hole is always exactly the ſame with that of the ſhell, and the hole is ſo nearly the ſize of the ſhell, that there is but very little room for its expanſion, as 'tis abſolutely neceſſary it ſhould do to a ſmall diſtance.

P. What occaſion is there for ſuch an expanſion?

T. The reaſon is evident; for this fiſh projects a fleſhy ſubſtance of a circular form, on the hinder-part, and, when full grown, of the length of two or three inches.

P. For what purpoſe do you imagine, that Nature has ſupplied it with that fleſhy ſubſtance?

T. It is deſtined, in all probability, to take in the ſalt-water, and throw it out again at pleaſure.

P. By what name is this part of the fiſh diſtinguiſhed?

T. By

T. By its proboſcis. This, however, muſt, doubtleſs, be a miſnomer, becauſe of its ſituation in the poſterior part of the creature.

P. Is there any thing more peculiarly remarkable in theſe fiſh?

T. Yes; for notwithſtanding great numbers of them penetrate into one ſtone, and ſo go on, as it were, in a very ſocial manner; yet each keeps conſtantly to its own particular antrum, or cavern, without the leaſt infringement on its neighbour, though they come ſo cloſe, that one may almoſt ſee through the thin partition.

P. Have you any thing ſtill to add, in regard to the large and deep caverns of the rocky cliffs in ſome parts of the Corniſh ſhore, that is truly worth the attention of the curious?

T. Yes; for ſwallows have been found in the midſt of them, and dragged out, notwithſtanding ſuch caverns, or deep holes, are below high-water-mark. This is atteſted for fact by ſeveral of the inhabitants of Falmouth, whoſe veracity is not to be doubted.

P. Have you any particular hiſtorians, that confirm the truth of this aſſertion?

T. Yes; one Richard Carew, who wrote above 200 years ago, has theſe words: "In the weſt part of Cornwall, during the win-

ter-ſeaſon, ſwallows are found ſitting in old deepe tynne-workes, and holes of the ſea-cliffes." To this he adds, the well known account given of them by Olaus Magnus; who aſſures his readers, "that they are found in winter-time under water, among the reeds, in the lakes of Norway, &c. congealed (as it were) in cluſters, which reſolve, and the frozen ſwallows revive by the warmth of a gentle fire.

P. What cattle have they peculiar to this county?

T. Though they have all the various kinds of tame cattle that are to be met with in other counties; yet their Sheep, whilſt their lands lay open and uncultivated, were not only very ſmall, but their wool was ſo remarkably coarſe, that it was commonly called Corniſh hair; however, ſince their lands have been properly manured, their Sheep are in no reſpect inferior to thoſe in other counties, as to their ſize or fineneſs of ſtaples, but much ſuperior to moſt, in regard to the ſoundneſs of their fleſh, and the ſweetneſs of their taſte. Theſe Sheep, for the moſt part, indeed, have no horns; yet their wool, though leſs in quantity, is much finer than thoſe that have.

P. Of

P. Of what ſtature are their cows and oxen?

T. For the generality, remarkably ſmall; but then their fleſh is very ſweet and juicy; and great numbers of them are reared for ſlaughter; as the butchers there frequently meet with good markets for victualling of ſhips, and ſometimes export them to foreign parts.

P. With what cattle do the farmers, for the generality, plow their lands?

T. With their oxen, and not their horſes.

P. What ſort of horſes have they?

T. They likewiſe are but low of ſtature, are bred hard, and fed but very coarſely; they travel, however, extremely well, and are very ſerviceable in that mountainous country. They have ſpirit enough, naturally, it is true, but then by hard labour, when they are young, that is to ſay, by carrying heavy loads of ſand for tillage, they are brought ſoon off from their mettle, and become dull and ſluggiſh.

P. Have they no mules among them?

T. Yes; numbers; and they are deſervedly made uſe of as much, if not more than horſes.

P. Why ſo?

T. Becauſe they are beaſts of burthen, will fare very hard, and are, for the moſt part, free from all diſorders, and long-lived.

P. What deer have they in this county?

T. None but thoſe of the fallow-kind in particular parks, except it be ſome few red deer, that are ſtrays from Devonſhire.

P. How do the gentlemen there, who are ſportſmen, find out ſufficient diverſion?

T. Some gentlemen, who are poſſeſſed of black cattle, let them run wild, and invite their friends to hunt them down; but they would never want for ſport, if that expedient was not ſo frequently practiſed; for there are great numbers of otters, badgers, martens and foxes, which harbour in the cliffs near the ſea-ſide, which create ſport enough in conſcience.

P. What fowl have they in this county?

T. They have plenty of ſea-fowl, woodcocks, and other land-ſowl: but the moſt remarkable and peculiar to their county is the Pyracorax, or Corniſh cough, which is a voracious kind of a raven, and about the ſame ſize, with red feet, and a red bill, which breeds on the coaſt, between the Land's-end and the Lizard-point. This bird is ſuch a thief, that

that if he be kept tame, and is full fed, he will carry away knives and forks, ſpoons, rings, and even money, either ſilver or gold, if left in his way, and conceal them ſo as they ſhall never more be found. To this bad faculty of pilfering, we muſt add another, much worſe, and ſometimes of more fatal conſequence; for he is a perfect incendiary, will ſteal away fire-brands, or lighted candles, and by hiding them in corn, hay, or thatch, he will ſet houſes and barns on fire.

P. What fruit and herbs have they in this county?

T. They are much the ſame with thoſe of other counties, tho' not altogether ſo plentiful amongſt the common people. As to the latter, they have ſome, either not to be met with at all, or not in ſuch plenty at leaſt, in any other county throughout the whole kingdom of Great-Britain.

P. Give me a catalogue of them?

T. In the firſt place, there is the ſmall creeping round-leav'd baſtard chickweed, which is found on moiſt banks in divers places.

2. The marſh-aſparagus, or perage, which is found growing on the cliffs at the Lizard-point.

3. Round-leav'd marſh, and St. Peter's wort in abundance, near the Land's-end.

4. The tender ivy-leav'd bell-flower, which grows on moiſt and watery banks; and the leaſt marſh centaury, which is found on a rotten, boggy ground, between St. Ives and Penzance.

5. The fir-leav'd heath, with many flowers; the great yellow-marſh eye-bright; the ſmall ſea-crane's-bill with betony leaves; the ſea-cotton weed; the creeping cock's-foot; the rupture wort; the leſſer autumnal ſtar-jacinth, and Engliſh ſea-peas. To theſe may be added a ſort of grain, ſown in plenty towards the farther end of this county; that is to ſay, naked oats, called pile-corn, from its being naturally ſtripped of its huſk, with which the common oat is covered. This grain in particular is ſo much valued, that it bears a better price than wheat itſelf. They have, moreover, a profuſion of ſea-herbs; namely, camphire, ſea-holly, eringo, ros ſolis, and palamontain, with many odoriferous herbs; ſuch as marjoram, roſemary, &c. &c. which grow wild upon the cliffs. I ſhall cloſe this account with one remark, and that is, no ſweet-brier will naturally grow in this county.

P. For what in particular is this county more famous than any other part of the whole habitable world?

T. It is peculiarly remarkable, not only for the various innate good qualities of its inhabitants, but on account of thoſe immenſe treaſures that lie below the ſurface of its earth.

P. Let us hear the extraordinary character which you intimate that the natives bear?

T. The people in general are well-bred; and the gentry are ſo ſociable and reſpectful to one another, that they intermarry, for the generality, among themſelves; from whence aroſe the old proverb, that all the Corniſh men are Couſins. Thoſe amongſt them that have had a liberal education are, for the moſt part, of a free and generous diſpoſition; are very facetious and inquiſitive; and what redounds ſtill more to their honour, they are remarkably humane and benevolent to all their fellow-creatures, when under any diſtreſs. The Corniſh people, moreover, are no ways inferior to the modern Engliſh in point of genius; are as great encouragers of arts and ſciences, and take as much delight in philoſophical reſearches, as the moſt curious Virtuoſi in London. As to mechanic arts, it muſt

muſt be allowed, that they excel them; for not only their natural genius, but their daily avocations give them a particular biaſs to all kinds of ſtudy and invention. In a word, their character, in regard to trade and commerce in general, is ſo well known to all the world, that it would be perfectly needleſs, if not impertinent, to mention any thing in particular on thoſe topics. And as we have juſt mentioned their ſtrength of genius, it is highly requiſite, that we ſhould take notice of their graceful ſtature, ſtrength and activity of body; and peculiar ſkill in the art of wreſtling, hurling, and divers other manly exerciſes and recreations.

P. Can you produce any particular inſtances of their extraordinary ſtrength of body?

T. Yes; two (amongſt many others that might be produced) that are peculiarly remarkable, namely, one John Bray, who carried ſix buſhels of meal, of fifteen gallons to the buſhel, and the miller, a man of twenty-four years of age, on his back at the ſame time; alſo one John Roman, who carried at one time, the whole carcaſe of an ox.

P. What language is ſpoken by the inhabitants of this county?

T. In

T. In ſome few pariſhes, indeed, near the Land's-end, there is a corrupt dialect of the Corniſh tongue even ſtill retained; but the gentry, and other people of faſhion, talk as politely, and as pure Engliſh as the natives of London.

P. Wherein does it appear, that they have more immenſe riches under the ſurface of the earth than any other county?

T. By their numerous and ineſtimable mines, both of copper and tin; of the truth of which the two following inſtances (amongſt the many others that might be produced) will, we preſume, be ample conviction. In the firſt place, we are aſſured by a certain hiſtorian of unqueſtionable veracity, that there was one mine in particular, in Cornwall, that produced tin of more value in one year, than ever the famous mountain of Potoſi did of gold within the ſame time; and in the next, that one gentleman, a cotemporary of his, was poſſeſſed of a tin-mine at St. Agnes, for which he was offered 100 l. per diem for ſix months ſucceſſively; but he turned a deaf ear to the propoſal, as he imagined it fell infinitely ſhort of its intrinſic value.

P. Are

P. Are there not in this county divers rocks and ſtones of ſuch a ſtupendous nature, as to claim the attention of the moſt curious?

T. Yes, ſeveral; and the firſt and moſt conſpicuous is that rock which is diſtinguiſhed by the name of Wring cheeſe.

P. Of what does it principally conſiſt?

T. Of a groupe of rocks, which are the juſt objects of admiration. On the top ſtone there was once two regular baſons; but part of one of them has ſince been broken off. This ſtone, I am told, was a Logan, or Rocking-ſtone, which before the misfortune that then attended it, might with all the eaſe imaginable, be moved to and fro with nothing but a pole; but at preſent, indeed, a great part of that weight, which kept it on a poiſe is taken away. The whole heap conſiſts of about thirty feet. As the upper part is of ſo great a weight, and the under is ſo very ſlender, it is very ſurprizing, that ſuch an ill-grounded pile could reſiſt the ſtorms of ſuch a ſituation from one age to another.

P. Are there not ſome people of opinion, that this is an artificial building of large flat ſtones, piled up, with the utmoſt care and precaution one upon another, and raiſed to that

that height which we now ſee it, by dint of human ſkill and indefatigable labour?

T. Though, 'tis true, that ſome hiſtorians have inſiſted the whole to be the effect of art only; yet there are others, of equal, if not greater authority, who ſtrenuouſly maintain the contrary opinion, and peremptorily inſiſt, that 'tis a perfect natural crag; and doubtleſs it muſt be ſo; ſince there are not only ſeveral heaps of ſtone on the ſame hill, but on another likewiſe at about a mile diſtant, of the ſame fabric, called Kell-Mars; though not ſo high, indeed, as the former; and 'tis no improbable conjecture, that the ſtones which ſurrounded it, and concealed its grandeur, were removed by the Druids.

P. What account does Mr. Nordon give of it, in his deſcription of this country.

T. He inſiſts, that they were left in this poſition at the univerſal Deluge, by the force of the water, which deprived them of the earth, and other means of ſupport; and that they remain thus depending, without the leaſt aid or aſſiſtance of any human hand whatſoever.

P. What are Mr. Borſale's ſentiments concerning them?

T. He

T. He imagines, that it may be juſtly deemed a rock-deity.

P. On what grounds does he ſupport that conjecture?

T. On its having rock-baſons, in the firſt place; in the next, on the uppermoſt ſtone of it being a Rocking-ſtone; then again, on its ſtructure being ſo miraculouſly well poiſed; and laſtly on the great elevation of the groupe, both which laſt-mentioned particulars might (as he conceives) be intended, and 'tis highly probable that his notion is juſt, to expreſs the majeſty and grandeur of the Supreme Being. And he farther imagines, that ſince the rock-baſons ſhew it to be a cuſtomary thing for perſons to get upon the top of this Karn, or heap of rocks; it might ſerve with equal probability, for the Druids, or prieſts, as a very commodious place to make their harangues on, and to keep the populace in awe, by their ſolemn predictions thereon of future events.

P. Is there any other kind of ſtone-deity beſides that laſt-mentioned in the county of Cornwall, or in the parts adjacent?

T. Yes; there is one, which is commonly known both in Cornwall and Scilly, by the name of Tolmen, that is to ſay, the hole of ſtone;

ſtone; being a large, orbicular ſtone, ſupported by two others, betwixt which there is a free paſſage.

P. How many of theſe Tolmên are there?

T. There are two of them in the Scilly-Iſlands; but that which is the moſt ſtupendous, and the juſteſt object of admiration, is ſituate in the pariſh of Conſtantine in Cornwall.

P. Pray, give me then a particular deſcription of this laſt.

T. It is one vaſt, oval pebble, placed on the points of two natural rocks; inſomuch that a man may creep under the great one, between its ſupporters, through a paſſage, three feet wide, and three feet high.

P. Of what diameter is this ſtone?

T. Thirty three feet, due north and ſouth.

P. Of what depth is it?

T. Fourteen feet ſix inches.

P. Of what width is it?

T. Eighteen feet ſix inches from eaſt to weſt.

P. Of what circumference?

T. Ninety ſeven feet.

P. How is the top of it wrought, and by what means do you aſcend it?

T. You aſcend it by a ladder; and when you come to examine it, you will find it

worked into baſons, much like an imperfect honey-comb. That which is larger than all the reſt, is at the ſouth end, and about ſeven feet in length; that at the north is but about five; ſome are not above a foot; others are ſtill ſmaller; their ſides and ſhape are irregular.

P. How do theſe ſeveral baſons diſcharge their waters?

T. Moſt of them into the principal ones; but thoſe near the brim of the ſtone have little channels, which diſcharge the water they collect over the ſides of the Tolmên, and the flat rocks, which lie underneath, receive the droppings into baſons that are cut on their ſurfaces.

P. For what is this ſtone peculiarly remarkable?

T. In the firſt place, for its marvellous poſition, and in the next, for its extraordinary ſize.

P. Wherein is its poſition ſo very wonderful?

T. Though the ſlender part of it is almoſt ſemi-circular; yet it reſts on two large rocks, and only touches the two under-ſtones, as it were, on their points.

P. Do

P. Do you imagine this huge ſtone was ever removed from the place where it was firſt formed?

T. I do not; but this I firmly believe, that it has been cleared from the reſt of the rock, and ſhaped by art, in ſome degree, in order to keep it in proper poize.

P. What appearance does it make at preſent?

T. A very advantageous one; for it ſhews itſelf in a very ſurpriſing manner at ſeveral miles diſtance.

P. What is there in the area below this ſtone?

T. Several large rocks, which have, doubtleſs, been ſplit and divided; but whether thrown down from the ſides of the Tolmên or not, is very uncertain; but this is agreed on by all hiſtorians, that not only the Tolmên in Cornwall above-mentioned, but thoſe likewiſe in the iſland of Scilly, reſt on ſupporters, and never touch the earth.

P. Was not this particular circumſtance the effect of art and contrivance?

T. In all probability it was; for it was an eſtabliſhed principle of the antient Druids, that if any thing ſacred once happened to touch the ground, it was in ſome degree polluted

and prophaned; and for that reaſon, they ordered matters ſo, that theſe Deities of theirs ſhould reſt on the pure rock, to prevent them from defilement.

P. As you have given me a full and ſatisfactory account of theſe Tolmêns, let me know what other rude reliques of nature there are in this county that are the juſt objects of admiration.

T. That which is the moſt curious and aſtoniſhing is the Logan, or Rocking-ſtone: ſome of theſe, indeed, are artificial, and conſequently foreign to the queſtion; but in the pariſh of St. Levin, there is a very remarkable promontory, called Caſtle Treryn. This cape conſiſts of three diſtinct groupes of rocks. On the top of the middle group, which is ſomewhat difficult of acceſs, there is one of theſe Rocking-ſtones, which may very well be reckoned amongſt the wonders of the world.

P. Of what dimenſions, pray, may that particular Logan be?

T. The ſolid content, by a very exact computation, amounted to ninety five tons; the two inclined ſides whereof bear ſome reſemblance to the two roofs of a houſe, meeting in a kind of obtuſe ridge upon the top.

The

The lower part of the ſtone is a large, plain baſe, near the middle of which a ſmall part projects, and on that it reſts.

P. Of what form is that part, and how many inches in diameter?

T. It ſeems to be of a circular form, and ſcarce twenty inches round. The lower part of this likewiſe is ſomewhat convexed, by means whereof, as it was equally poiſed on this part, it became moveable with eaſe upon the large ſtone below, the poſition of which was the moſt aſtoniſhing thing of all; for the ſurface whereon the Logan reſted was conſiderably inclined. At firſt ſight, therefore, it ſeems, as if the Logan might with eaſe be heaved off, but it cannot be ſo in fact; for no one perſon, how ſtrong ſoever he may be, can move it up and down above an inch.

P. Of what heigth is it from the ground?

T. So high, that no one who ſees it, can conceive by what means it could poſſibly be lifted up to the place whereon it reſts. This ſtone, in ſhort, makes a natural part of the crag, whereon it now ſtands, and to which it has belonged, in all probability, for many ages.

P. Are there no other of theſe Logan, or Rocking-ſtones, than that laſt-mentioned?

T. Yes, ſeveral, one in particular in the large heap of rocks, called Boſworlas-Lehau, in the pariſh of St. Ius Penwith: There is another in the iſland of St. Agnes, in Scilly; and there was a third in the pariſh of Sithney, called Mên-amber, which tho' eleven feet long from eaſt to weſt, four feet deep, and ſix feet wide, a little child, as I am credibly informed, could inſtantly move it, the top-ſtone being ſo exactly poiſed.

P. Is it not then ſtanding at preſent?

T. No; for one Shrubſall, a puritanical governor of Pendennis, in the days of old Oliver, the Protector, in a fit of fiery zeal, cauſed it to be undermined, and demoliſhed, to the great grief of the country.

P. From whence do theſe Rocking-ſtones derive their name of Logan?

T. Mr. Borlase ingeniouſly acknowledges, that he does not rightly underſtand the meaning of it. For by ſome, 'tis ſaid to ſignify a pit, or hollow of the hand, and in ſuch hollows, this moving-ſtone is frequently found; but by others, it is interpreted, bewitching; the ſingular property of this ſtone ſeeming the effect of witchcraft; but which of the two is moſt preferable, he is at a loſs to determine.

P. As

P. As divers authors imagine, that the diſpoſition of theſe ſtones was the effect of art and contrivance, are there any juſt grounds, think you, for ſuch a conjecture?

T. Yes, doubtleſs, there are; for 'tis highly probable, that the Druids, who pretended ſo much to the art of magic, the ſole intention of which is to delude the populace, obſerving the uncommon property in the natural Rocking-ſtones, ſoon found out ways and means to palm it on the public as an occaſional miracle; and there is no manner of doubt to be made of it, but that where they had no natural, they made artificial ones, and honoured them with a formal conſecration.

They pretended, in the next place, that they were inhabited by Spirits; and 'tis highly probable, that they inſiſted upon this motion, as a convincing argument, that thoſe Spirits made them their favourite habitations, and places of receſs, by which means they became idols. For it is a general obſervation, that 'tis the buſineſs of all ſuch as make uſe of pious frauds, to encreaſe private gain, and to eſtabliſh an ill-grounded authority by deluding the illiterate vulgar under the pretence of a new commiſſion.

P. As

P. As you have now given me a ſatisfactory account of what is obvious to the eye upon the ſurface of the earth, pray tell me what curioſities are to be met with in the bowels of it?

T. Tho' there are divers ſort of ſtone and metals peculiar to this county; yet the Moor-ſtone is the chief, and moſt worthy the attention of the curious.

P. From whence does it derive its name, and from whence is it principally dug?

T. It is ſo called from its being found in ſwampy, mooriſh ground.

P. What do you mean by a ſwampy, mooriſh ground?

T. Not ſuch lands as are low and marſhy, but ſuch as are high and mountainous; as for inſtance, Dartmoor in Devonſhire is the moſt mountainous part of it, and the higheſt lands in this county are likewiſe called Moors; and from hence it is, that what is here called Moor-ſtone is always dug out of ſuch high-lands as I have been talking of.

P. Where are the fineſt Moor-ſtones to be met with?

T. In the famous rock, called Kernbrey, near Redruth.

P. To

P. To what uſes are they principally ſet apart?

T. They are converted into large poſterns, and ſquare pillars of an extraordinary length; and are peculiarly fit for large mill-ſtones.

P. What is the natural compoſition of this ſtone, and wherein does it principally conſiſt?

T. It ſtrikes the eye in the moſt agreeable manner, and conſiſts, for the moſt part, of a whitiſh, granulated marble, interſperſed and variegated with a kind of black and yellow matter, which has the appearance of tinſel and tin-glaſs, and glitters very agreeably in the ſun-beams; there is one misfortune, however, and that no very ſmall one, which attends it; namely, the weather has too ſoon an influence over it; and tho' it gives a glorious aſpect to any buildings, when newly erected; yet the beauty of it ſoon fades, and it makes but a ſad figure in old ones.

P. Why ſo?

T. Becauſe, notwithſtanding it is prodigiouſly hard at firſt, by its imbibing ſalts, and other corroſive matters from the air, it will change its colour, and firm conſiſtence in a ſhort time, and loſe all its original charms.

P. What

P. What appearance does this ſtone make when 'tis artfully poliſhed, and to what uſes is it peculiarly employed?

T. It then appears much more ſplendid and beautiful than any thing of the marble-kind, and makes the richeſt furniture of tables, chimney-pieces, &c. In ſhort, it looks altogether as agreeable as the Egyptian granate.

P. As this ſtone is exceſſively hard, is it not attended with a conſiderable expence, to have it poliſhed?

T. Yes; 'tis very chargeable; for you cannot have a ſquare inch poliſhed under 2s. 6d. ſterling.

P. Now, in regard to the Corniſh-mines, of what metals do they principally conſiſt?

T. Of two kinds; namely, one of Tin, and another of Copper. The former are very numerous, and for the generality very rich in ore; and for that reaſon, as I have before obſerved, this county is more famous than any other part of the habitable world. The latter, tho' not, indeed, ſo large as the former, are very rich.

P. Are there no ſilver or gold mines in this county?

T. There

T. There has been, 'tis true, a ſmall matter of both found here, but no quantity worthy of notice.

P. Is there nothing intermixt with theſe metalline ores?

T. Yes; large quantities both of Mundic and Arſenic.

P. What is the colour and quality of the Mundic?

T. 'Tis of a yellowiſh caſt, and produces as good Copper as any in Swedeland.

P. What is the nature and quality of the water that runs from it?

T. 'Tis a ſpeedy cure for any wounds before 'tis burnt; but afterwards, 'tis of a poiſonous nature, and ought to be careſully thrown away.

P. What is the nature and quality of the Arſenic with which ſuch ore is intermixed?

T. That likewiſe is of as poiſonous a nature as the former.

P. How many ſorts of Tin-worksare there?

T. Two; on account of the different forms in which the Tin appears.

P. In what form does it firſt appear?

T. In the form of ſtones, or pebbles, and ſo much like common ſtones, that they can only be diſtinguiſhed from them by their weight

weight; for upon the ſuppoſition that the ſpecific gravity of pure Tin is 7, that of common is 2 ½; but that of Tin-pebbles is for the moſt part 3 ½; ſometimes 4 and 4 ½, and the beſt 5.

P. Where are they moſt likely to be found?

T. Near a ſtream of water; they are, ſometimes, indeed, to be met with on the ſurface of the earth, but for the generality they are generated within the earth, at various depths, namely, eight, twelve, or ſometimes twenty feet from the ſurface.

P. Are not theſe very difficult to be procured?

T. Yes; very hard labour is indiſpenſably neceſſary in digging away the earth, and in producing artificial ſtreams of water by proper engines.

P. What is the method of procuring Tin, commonly called, and where does the largeſt engine ſtand?

T. It is called ſtream-work, and the largeſt is ſituate in the road from St. Auſtles to Polgooth.

P. In what form does the ſecond ſort of Tin make its appearance?

T. In ore.

P. Of what does that principally conſiſt?

T. Of

T. Of Tin and earth compounded, and concreted into a ſubſtance almoſt as hard as ſtone.

P. Of what colour is it?

T. It is for the generality of a dark grey, or purple colour, but ſometimes, by reaſon of the Mundic, that is intermixt, it appears of a yellowiſh caſt or hue.

P. How and where is this ore generally found?

T. It is always found in one continued ſtratum, or bed, called the Load; and this, for the generality, is found running through the ſolid ſubſtance of the hardeſt rocks.

P. Where is it firſt perceived?

T. It begins in ſmall veins near the ſurface, not above half an inch, or an inch wide at moſt; they increaſe, however, as they run into larger dimenſions, and branch out into different ſtrata, or beds, and take their courſe downwards, for the generality, due eaſt and weſt.

P. Of what value are ſome of theſe Loads?

T. According to their width and thickneſs. Some lumps of this ore are ſo large, that when they are drawn on the ſurface of the earth, they are worth twenty pounds ſterling and upwards.

P. Do theſe ſtones lie always contiguous to one another?

T. No; they ſometimes ſeem to be ſo entirely broken off, that a man of little or no judgment would inſtantly conclude, that he had juſt arrived at the end of it, and would give himſelf no farther trouble in ſearching after the remainder.

P. What methods then does the induſtrious and diſcreet Tinner take to find out ſuch remainder?

T. He is no ways diſcouraged by ſuch a caſual interruption; for he knows, by experience, that by digging at ſome little diſtance, on one ſide, that he ſhall moſt aſſuredly diſcover, in a ſhort time, that part of the Load, ſo ſeparated or broken off as above-mentioned; and find, that it will tally ſo exactly with the other end, as if it had actually been broken off, by ſome ſudden and violent concuſſion in the rock.

P. Are there not divers other ways and means practiſed or finding out theſe Loads of Tin-ore?

T. Yes, ſeveral; either by Shoad-ſtones; by the Virgula divinitoria, or (which is the beſt and ſureſt method) by digging ſome few feet

feet into ſuch places of the earth, where there are juſt grounds to expect it.

P. What do you mean by Shoad-ſtones?

T. Only ſuch parts of the rock, where ſuch ore abounds broken off, and rolling down the declivities of the mountains, are, by torrents ariſing from impetuous and heavy rains, and other caſualties carried down to a great diſtance; ſometimes two or three miles; to which places a ſet of people reſort to make their obſervations; and, if poſſible, by the moſt judicious reſearches, to find out the mineral rock to which they originally belonged; and there to diſcover the Load of ore propoſed.

P. What do you mean by the Virgula divinatoria?

T. That is the Nodding rod, or forked hazle-wand, which is carried by the perſon attempting to make the diſcovery upright before him in both hands, whilſt he walks along, and when he comes over the Load, the Nodding-rod will dip forwards, and by that means indicate where ſuch hidden treaſure lies; this method, however, is very precarious, and very ſeldom anſwers the end propoſed. As the laſt method, however, is the moſt natural and ſureſt, that is undertaken by the common people, who, when they have found the be-

ginning veins, and purſue their labour 'till the Loads become ſo large, that they can proceed no farther, thro' the expences that muſt unavoidably attend the proſecution of ſo laborious an undertaking; and then, in hopes of a ſuitable reward, make their diſcoveries to ſome gentlemen of ſuperior fortune to carry it on with more vigour and reſolution.

P. When thoſe gentlemen of fortune have got poſſeſſion of it, what meaſures do they take for carrying their ſcheme into execution?

T. When the labourers have entered deep into the rock, it is frequently flooded by ſprings, which waters they ſometimes drain, at a very large expence, either by water-wheels, or fire-engines, and are by ſuch practices enabled to continue their works, and follow the Load in all its rich meanders thro' the bowels of the earth; and ſometimes again by Adits, which require, for the generality, an immenſe ſum of money, as well as years to accompliſh.

P. What do you mean by an Adit?

T. A ſubterranean paſſage, which is carried on from the level of the country, thro' the baſis, or body of the mountain.

P. As

P. As you ſay that theſe Adits are ſo expenſive, and ſo long and tedious in their operation, what motives can induce the proprietors to ſuch an undertaking?

T. When once effected, they ſave all the expence of their water-works and fire-engines before-mentioned, which amount daily to a very conſiderable ſum.

P. When, by virtue of their various machines, they have raiſed a large quantity of this ore, what farther meaſures are taken to bring their work to perfection?

T. Great numbers of poor people are daily employed to break it to pieces, and fit it for the ſtamping-mills, till at laſt, by proper proceſſes, it is duly prepared for the ſmelting-houſe, where the Tin is made ready for ſale.

P. What is the third form in which Tin appears?

T. In that of Chryſtals; for Tin, as well as other metals, being a ſalt, will, under ſome circumſtances, chryſtalize; and for that reaſon, in divers parts of the mineral rocks, the moſt perfect, tranſparent, and beautiful chryſtals of pure Tin, without the leaſt intermixture of earth, are frequently found.

P. As you have given me a ſatisfactory account of the Tin-mines of this county, pray, proceed to your obſervations on their Loads of Copper.

T. The Copper-mines here are not only very numerous; but ſome of them very large and rich in ore; they principally abound where the Tin-mines do, and are frequently found very near them; but tho' they often run a long way together in a parallel, yet 'tis in a contrary direction; and notwithſtanding the Copper-ore does not contain ſo great a quantity of metal in proportion to its bulk as Tin-ore, yet there is no better in any part of the habitable world. And 'tis remarkable, that in ſome parts of Cornwall, large maſſy lumps of malleable Copper have been ſeen in very curious vegetable forms.

P. How is this ore made fit for ſmelting?

T. There is a large quantity (as has been already obſerved) of Mundic adhering to it, which workmen are obliged to burn away in very large ovens for that purpoſe, in order to its purification.

P. Is not Mundic frequently found by itſelf?

T. Yes, in very large quantities, conſiſting of ſmall pieces of a cubic form, and of a yellow colour; which notwithſtanding one ſhould imagine

imagine from its weight and appearance to be a metalic ſubſtance; yet its chief compoſition conſiſts of earth and ſulphur.

P. What does this Mundic, in which the Tin thus lies as in its bed, produce, when 'tis properly purified?

T. Such a large quantity of Lapis caliminaris of which ſuch large quantities of braſs is made, that inſtead of importing that commodity, as annually we were wont to do, to the amount of at leaſt 100,000 l. ſterling, we export at preſent as much at leaſt, if not much more.

P. In what manner are large quantities of Arſenic collected?

T. From the ſteam of melted Tin-ore, in proper funnels and rooms for that purpoſe in the Smelting-houſes in particular where bellows are employed.

P. What are ſuch Smelting-houſes commonly called?

T. Blowing-houſes; at preſent, however, the number of them is but ſmall.

P. What do thoſe rocks which produce ſuch mineral ore principally conſiſt of?

T. Of various kinds of ſtones, the nature of which is very different one from another; for ſome are very hard; whilſt others are remarkably

markably ſoft; ſome again are exceedingly cloſe and compact; and others conſiſting of a very thin and curious Lamina, not unlike the leaves of a book; and into which the ſtone, after it has lain for ſome conſiderable time in the air, is again converted.

P. Where is this peculiar ſtone particularly to be met with?

T. At North-down, and the parts adjacent.

P. Is there nothing of value to be met with in the cavernous parts of thoſe rocks you have been ſpeaking of?

T. Yes; ſeveral fine, tranſparent chryſtals, called Corniſh Diamonds, becauſe they will cut glaſs, as real diamonds do, and when artfully poliſhed, ſtrike the eye in a very agreeable manner, and bear a very near reſemblance to what is commonly called a Brilliant; for they are formed like a ſix-ſided priſm, pointed at the top.

P. Of what length and circumference may ſome of them be?

T. Five inches long, and about two inches in diameter; but for the moſt part, indeed, they are leſs.

P. To what uſe are they principally employed?

T. To

T. To grotto-works, and other curioſities of the like nature.

P. Are there not ſome parts in this county where little or nothing of thoſe mineral-ores appear?

T. Yes; all thoſe parts which are ſituate on this ſide St. Auſtles, St. Michael's and St. Agnes.

P. Of what then does their natural produce principally conſiſt?

T. They abound principally with rocks of blue Slate, more particularly towards the ſouth, where divers large quarries of it lie, of which are made the beſt Slate-tiles that are any where to be met with, and are frequently made uſe of, not only in divers parts of England, but are exported by the proprietors in large quantities to foreign parts.

P. Are there any particular ſhells to be met with in the earth or ſtones of this county?

T. No; none at all, except ſome few pieces of Magnet, which are very imperfect, and not worthy the attention of the curious.

P. What is peculiarly remarkable in that part of the Corniſh ſhore which lies near St. Agnes?

T. A very fine ſort of earth, which is as white as chalk, but of a much ſofter conſiſtence, and yet not brittle in the leaſt.

P. What is the Bay of St. Ives peculiarly remarkable for?

T. For a prodigious quantity of fine, light ſand, which the wind raiſes into clouds, with which the country, ſometimes for a mile or two round about, is (as it were) perfectly overwhelmed. It is very remarkable likewiſe for its fine black marble pebbles, with which it abounds to that degree, that the ſtreets of St. Ives are paved with them, and as they are, by nature, very ſmooth and ſlippery, it is not only ſomewhat troubleſome, but dangerous to walk about the town in rainy weather. There are likewiſe to be ſeen, on all the rocks in this part of the coaſt, a prodigious number of black muſcles, which grow in large cluſters; as alſo, a great variety of curious ſhells, moſt of which being parti-coloured, ſtrike the eye in the moſt agreeable manner. At the Land's-End, however, are found ſome particular ſea-ſhells in greater quantity and variety, and abounding with more colours, than in any other part of the Britiſh Coaſt.

P. To what uſes are they peculiarly appropriated?

T. The

T. The poor people in the parts adjacent make it their principal employment to pick them up, and ſell them to ſuch as make toys of them, by which means ſeveral families get a very comfortable ſubſiſtence.

P. What is peculiarly remarkable at Mounts Bay?

T. The ſhore there is paved, as it were, with a rocky ſtone, of ſo fine a grain, that it equals any hone, in giving an exquiſite edge to a razor.—This, however, is not the principal object of obſervation; for here is one of the moſt remarkable mountains in the whole world.

P. Pray give me a particular account of that great curioſity?

T. This mountain is ſituate near Marazion, and at high-water is wholly ſurrounded, but at low-water, indeed, there is a neck of dry land, like a cauſe-way, that joins it to the ſhore by the town. At the baſe, it is a mile or more in circumference, and riſes, tapering, in a very beautiful manner towards a point, to a great height: on the top of it, there is a ſpacious edifice, belonging to one Sir John St. Albans, particularly remarkable for a chair there called, St. Michaels, in which, if any one's curioſity leads him to ſit a-while, he views

views the perpendicular ſteepneſs of the mount, and the rocks and water below, which make a tremendous figure. He that will venture to make the experiment, will find both the ſtrength of his mind, and the ſteadineſs of his head.

P. Of what does that chair conſiſt?

T. Of one large ſolid rock, the upper parts whereof are covered with earth, which produces a large quantity of graſs, herbs, ſhrubs, &c. and give it a very pleaſant verdure; the lower parts, however, or baſis of the rock, lie perfectly naked, and ſpread themſelves a conſiderable width all round, eſpecially towards the ſouth, where it is very delightful to obſerve the numerous loads of Tin that run all about, in ſmall veins, through ſeveral parts on the ſurface, and entering deep into the rock. This mount, in a word, makes a very grand appearance at the diſtance of three miles from Penzance, and over all the adjacent country.

P. What is peculiarly remarkable on the coaſt near Helſtone?

T. A very famous lake, commonly called Loo-pool, which is near two miles, formed by a conflux of rivulets, and parted from the ſea by a wide and ſtrong beach of ſand and pebble,

pebble, through which the waters of the ſea and lake are ſuppoſed to communicate by percolation; for the waters which run into the lake have no viſible diſcharge, and the waters of the lake are conſiderably ſalt, which cannot be well accounted for, if the ſea only caſually oveflowed the beach. In this pool there are abundance of fiſh of ſeveral ſorts, but ſome in particular that are to be met with no where elſe.

P. Are there not ſome other rocks peculiarly remarkable in the parts adjacent?

T. Yes, two, called the ſoapy rocks; the firſt of which lies not far from Penzance, but the other at five miles diſtance farther on.

P. From whence do they derive that name?

T. From the earth there which bears a very near reſemblance to ſoap.

P. Has it the properties of that uſeful commodity?

T. No; for notwithſtanding it is ſmooth and ſlippery, indeed; yet it will neither lather nor ſcour like ſoap.

P. What ſort of earth is it then?

T. In ſome parts of the rock it is exceedingly white and ſoft; in others 'tis ſtreaked with red; and in others again 'tis of a motley colour.

P. Where is this peculiar earth to be met with?

T. In the interſtices of the ſtony rock, in divers ſtrata, and that which is the whiteſt, fineſt, and ſmalleſt part in regard to quantity lies the deepeſt; the very pebbles of this earth appear to the eye of a ſaponaceous conſiſtence, or ſmooth pieces of petrified ſoap.

P. What ſort of earth is that which is found in the ſecond ſoapy rock?

T. There is here much larger quantities of earth than in the former, but then there is no compariſon in regard to the colour or fine conſiſtence of it; neither does it appear to the eye ſo much like ſoap as the other.

P. To what uſes or purpoſes are theſe two earths in particular applied?

T. Both are the principal ingredients in the manufacture of Britiſh china, which of late years has been very conſiderably improved.

P. Did this county ever include that of Devon?

T. Yes, formerly; and then was looked upon, not without good grounds, a petty kingdom; for there is an antient hiſtory of Great-Britain at this time in being, wherein the author, in the very title-page, tells us, that he propoſes to treat diſtinctly of the four kingdoms

kingdoms of Great-Britain, viz. the kingdom of Scotland, the kingdom of England, the kingdom of Wales, and the kingdom of Cornwall; all diverſe from each other, in reſpect of their origin, manners, laws and languages.

P. What were the iſlands of Scilly (formerly a part of this county, tho' now ſeparated by the ſea (as has been before hinted) called by the moſt antient Greek hiſtorians?

T. The Caſſiterides, from the Greek word Κασσιτερος, that is to ſay, Tin; from whence 'tis evident beyond all contradiction, that thoſe iſlands, even in the higheſt antiquity, were famous for their Tin Mines; and as a confirmation of it, there are many authentic accounts extant, not only of the Phænicians, but other foreign nations reſorting to them on that particular ſcore, and carrying on, in the earlieſt ages of the world, very conſiderable dealings in that valuable and important article of trade and commerce.

P. What are the peculiar bleſſings which attend the iſland of Great-Britain in general, and whereof this county of Cornwall in particular enjoys a larger ſhare than any other county throughout the whole kingdom?

T. An anonymous poet has deſcribed the peculiar indulgence of providence thereto, in

the following impartial and comprehenſive lines, viz.

Nor cold nor heats extremes thy people fear,
But gentle ſeaſons turn the peaceful year.
When teeming Nature's careful hand beſtow'd
Her various favours on her num'rous brood,
For thee th' indulgent mother kept the beſt,
Smil'd in thy face, and thus her daughter bleſt:
In thee, my darling iſle, ſhall never ceaſe
The conſtant joys of happineſs and peace;
Whate'er can furniſh luxury or uſe,
Thy ſea ſhall bring thee, or thy land produce.

ADDITIONAL

ADDITIONAL

REMARKS.

REMARK I.

THE Corniſh method of manufacturing their Tin, which is their principal and moſt valuable commodity is this. When the ore is brought above-ground in the ſtone, 'tis broke with hammers, and then carried to the ſtamping-mills, which prepare it for other mills, in which 'tis ground to powder. After 'tis well waſhed, and perfectly cleared from the earth, &c. that adheres to it, it is melted at the

blowing-houſes into pigs of about 3 or 400 weight, on each of which is marked the proprietor's name, and the value which is ſet upon it at the coining-houſe, where 'tis aſſay'd for that purpoſe.

REM. II.

The particular times appointed for ſuch coinage and valuation, are Midſummer and Michaelmas, and for the conveniency of ſuch as are not duly prepared, there is a poſt-coinage at Lady-day and Chriſtmas; the ſtamp whereof is the ſeal of the duchy of Cornwall.

REM. III.

The Tinners are regulated by ſtannary laws, ſo called from the Latin term Stannum, that is to ſay, Tin; and the trials of their cauſes are by juries, returned by the ſeveral mayors of the ſtannary towns; for which purpoſe courts are held by the lord-warden of the ſtannaries, who has alſo a deputy to act in his abſence.

REM. IV.

When all the legal duties are ſatisfied, the Tinner may ſend his wares to what market he

he thinks moſt proper, with this reſtriction only, that in caſe the king then on the throne, or the then duke of Cornwall ſhall be inclined to be purchaſers, the right of pre-emption is due to them.

REM. V.

Though the time cannot be abſolutely aſcertained when theſe Tin-mines were either firſt diſcovered, or when their operations firſt began; yet it is evident, that they were worked by the Britons in the time of the Romans, and that the Phænicians had large dealings with the inhabitants of this county for Tin.

REM. VI.

Though the Saxons, indeed, ſeemingly neglected theſe mines; yet the earls of Cornwall, after the Normans came over, were ſo enriched by their produce, that, from time to time, they granted the Tinners ſeveral very important privileges; and (amongſt many more) theſe that follow, viz.

Firſt, That no Engliſhman in that duchy ſhould pay cuſtom for exporting Corniſh cloth, in conſideration of his paying four ſhillings

lings for the coinage of every hundred weight of Tin. This privilege was firſt granted by Edward the Black prince.

Secondly, That the natives ſhall have the free liberty of taking ſand out of the ſea, and carrying it to any part of the county, where he can diſpoſe of it to the beſt advantage; which commodity is principally purchaſed by the farmers, who live at a conſiderable diſtance, and make uſe of it for manure.

Thirdly, King Charles the Firſt granted them the privilege of trading wherever they pleaſed, without the leaſt reſtriction, either within the kingdom, or to foreign parts.

REM. VII.

The five coinage towns are Leſkard, Leſtwithiel, Truro, Helſton, and Penzance; and the number of the Tinners amount at leaſt to 100,000.

REM. VIII.

Ever ſince king Edward the Third created his eldeſt ſon, the prince of Wales, duke of Cornwall, the eldeſt ſons of the kings of England have had that title, who not only appoint

point the ſheriffs of this county, but have peculiar royalties and rights in certain actions, the ſtannaries, wrecks, cuſtoms, &c. for the receipt of which revenues ſeveral officers are from time to time appointed.

REM. IX.

This county, though ſituate in but a corner (as it were) of the kingdom, and at ſuch a wide diſtance from the royal reſidence, ſends no leſs than forty four members to parliament. But how this county came to be indulged with ſo many parliamentary boroughs, cannot clearly be accounted for, but by ſuppoſing it to be owing to the intereſt of its dukes, who, for many ages, have been heirs to the crown.

REM. X.

The parliamentary boroughs, each of which return two members to parliament, as the county itſelf does two, which make up the forty-four, are as follow.

Launceſton,

Launceſton,	Penryn,
Leſkard,	Tregony,
Leſtwithiel,	Boſſiney,
Truro,	St. Ives,
Bodmin,	Fowey,
Helſton,	St. Germains,
Saltaſhe,	St. Michael,
Camelford,	Newport,
Weſtlow,	St. Maws,
Eaſtlow,	Kellington.
Grampound,	

REM. XI.

Launceſton (which is ſituate on the river Tamar, and called likewiſe Dunhivid from its being built on a down) is diſtant from London 175 computed, and 208 meaſured miles. It was firſt incorporated by king John. It gives the title of viſcount to the prince of Wales, of whom the manor is held in fee-farm.

Its markets are on Thurſday and Saturday, and its fairs at Whitſuntide, May the 1ſt, Midſummer, Catherine-tide, and St. Leonards.

Here are two charity-ſchools, firſt founded by queen Elizabeth, for forty-eight children

of

of both ſexes, where the girls are taught to knit, ſew, and make bone-lace, and are allowed what they earn.

REM. XII.

Leſkard is 180 computed, and 220 meaſured miles from London. It was firſt incorporated by Edward earl of Cornwall, and afterwards by queen Elizabeth.

Its market is on Saturday, and it has ſeven fairs, viz. Shrove-Monday, Midlent-Monday, the Monday after St. Nicholas, Aſcenſion-day, Auguſt 15, September 21, and the Monday after the 6th of December.

It is now one of the largeſt and beſt towns in all Cornwall, and has an extraordinary trade, eſpecially in all manufactures of leather.

It has a large church, a very handſome town-hall, and an eminent free ſchool.

REM. XIII.

Leſtwithiel is ſituate on the Foy or Fowey, 188 computed, and 230 meaſured miles from London. It is a good town, and has a common goal. The weights and meaſures for the whole ſtannary are kept here; as alſo the county-

county-courts. It was incorporated by Richard, earl of Cornwall. Its chief trade is the woollen manufacture.

Its market is on Friday, and has three fairs, viz. June 29, Auguſt 24, and November 2.

REM. XIV.

Truro is a branch of the port of Falmouth, which ſtands at the conflux of two rivers, that almoſt encompaſs the town, and form a large wharf, with a commodious quay for veſſels of about 100 ton,

This town is 252 computed, and 274 meaſured miles from London. It has the benefit of coining Tin. Its chief trade lies in ſhipping off Tin and Copper ore. It was firſt incorporated by king John, and afterwards by queen Elizabeth.

The people of this town dreſs and live ſo elegantly, that the Pride of Truro is become a by-word of proverb in this county. This place gives title of baron to the earl of Radnor.

Its markets are Wedneſday and Saturday, and it has four fairs, viz. Wedneſday after Midlent-Sunday, Wedneſday in Whitſun-week, November 19, and December 28.

REM.

REM. XV.

Bodmin, which ſtands between two hills, almoſt in the centre of the county, and about 12 miles from each of the two channels, is 195 computed, and 263 meaſured miles from London.

Its corn and fleſh market is on Saturday, and it has three fairs, viz. on St. Paul's day, Wedneſday before Whitſuntide, and on the 6th of December. It has beſides an annual carnival. It was once the only ſtaple of the county for the yarn-manufacture, but that is ſince greatly decayed.

The earl of Radnor, to whom it gives the title of viſcount, is lord of the manor.

It has a good free-ſchool, partly maintained by the duke of Cornwall, and partly by the corporation.

It was formerly one of the towns for ſtamping of Tin; but that privilege is now loſt.

Near this place there is a well, whoſe water is remarkable for being much heavier than any other, and for preſerving its ſcent and taſte for near twelve months ſucceſſively.

Though this well is called Scarlet-well, yet, like the rainbow, it diſcovers a great variety of colours.

N. B. This ought, indeed, to have been inſerted in the natural hiſtory, but we choſe rather to introduce it here than wholly to omit it.

Not far from this place likewiſe are thoſe monumental ſtones called the Hurlers, which Dr. Stukely makes no doubt are the remains of an antient Druid temple. They ſtand on a down in three circles, and had the name from the ſurperſtitious notion of the peaſants thereabouts, that they were once men, but transformed into ſtones, for diverting themſelves on Sundays at their favourite exerciſe of hurling.

REM. XVI.

Helſton, which is ſituate on the little river Cober, not far from its influx into the Engliſh channel, is 226 computed, and 294 meaſured miles from London.

It is one of the towns appointed for the coinage of Tin.

It

Its market is on Saturday; and its fairs on March 13, July 9, Auguſt 29, October 28, the ſecond Sunday before St. Thomas's day, and the Saturdays before Midlent-Sunday, Palm-Sunday and Whitſunday.

It was incorporated by queen Elizabeth, and afterwards confirmed by king Charles I.

Its mannor belongs to the prince of Wales, as duke of Cornwall.

It has a large church, the ſpire whereof is ninety feet high, and ſerves as a ſea mark. King John conferred on this town the following important privileges, viz. to build a guild-hall, to pay no toll, but in the city of London, and to be impleaded no where but in its own borough. At a ſmall diſtance from the town is a tolerable good harbour, where ſeveral of the Tin-ſhips take in their lading.

REM. XVII.

Saltaſhe is 184 computed, and 226 meaſured miles from London, and but about three miles from Plymouth-dock, to which there is a ferry over the Tamar, called the Crimble-paſſage.

It is a corporation by charter, granted from Charles II. and the town belongs to the ho-

nour of Tidmorton-caſtle, from which it derives ſeveral valuable privileges over its haven, which is capable of a ſhip of any burthen: viz. a court of admiralty; an annual revenue from its own boats and barges; anchorage and ſoilage from all foreign veſſels; the profit of the Crimble-paſſage, and dragging oyſters, except between Candlemas and Eaſter, with a coroner's inqueſt, arreſts, &c.

The inhabitants trade largely here in malt and beer.

Here is a good church and a free-ſchool.

Its market is on Tueſday, and its fairs on Candlemas and St. James's-day.

REM. XVIII.

Camelford, ſituated near the river Camel, is 184 computed, and 250 meaſured miles from London, and has for its arms a camel paſſing over a ford.

It was incorporated by king Charles I. Its market is on Friday, and it has four fairs, viz. on the firſt Friday after the 10th of March, May 15, July 7, and Auguſt 26.

Weſtlow,

REM. XIX.

Weſtlow, ſituate on the weſt ſide the river Low, and over-againſt Eaſtlow, is 250 miles from London. Its market is on Saturday, and its fair on St. Mark's-day.

The inhabitants here deal principally in pilchards.

REM. XX.

Eaſtlow, ſituate on the eaſt ſide of the river, is 250 miles from London, and has a market on Saturdays, and two fairs, one on Candlemas, and the other on Michaelmas-day.

REM. XXI.

Grampound, which has a bridge over the river Fale, is 206 computed, and 251 meaſured miles from London.

It was made a borough in the reign of Edward III. by whoſe charter it was endowed with many important privileges, which were confirmed by Henry VIII.

Its market is on Saturday, and its fairs on January 18 and June 11.

Here is a conſiderable manufacture of gloves.

REM. XXII.

Penryn, ſituate near the entrance of the haven of Falmouth, on one ſide of Pendennis-caſtle, is 216 computed, and 264 meaſured miles from London.

It reſembles a town in a wood, by reaſon of the many gardens and orchards that are in it; it is well watered with rivulets, and has an arm of the ſea on each ſide of it; it has a good cuſtom-houſe, and a quay.

Its inhabitants carry on a conſiderable trade in drying and vending pilchards, and in the Newfoundland fiſhery. Queen Elizabeth founded a free-ſchool here; and king James I. made it firſt a corporation; for before it was governed by a portreeve only.

Its markets are on Wedneſday and Saturday, and its fairs on May 1, July 7, and December 21.

REM. XXIII.

Tregony, ſituate on the river Fale, is 205 computed, and 256 meaſured miles from London.

London. It was formerly governed only by a portreeve, but was made a corporation by king James I.

The principal manufacture here is ſerge.

Its manor belongs to the antient and now enobled family of the Boſcawen's.

Its market is on Saturday, and it has five fairs, viz. Shrove-Tueſday, May 3, July 25, September 2, and November 6.

REM. XXIV.

Boſſiney (alias Tintagel) ſituate partly on an Iſthmus, and partly on an iſland, which was formerly joined by a draw-bridge to the main-land, is 189 miles from London. It is remarkable for being the birth-place of king Arthur, and for being the ſeat of the dukes of Cornwall in the time of the Britons.

It has three fairs, viz. July 25, November 11, and October 8, which laſt is a cattle-fair.

REM. XXV.

St. Ives (alias St. Ithes) which has a harbour in the Iriſh channel, is 229 computed, and 278 meaſured miles from London.

Its

Its inhabitants carry on a conſiderable trade in pilchards and corniſh ſlates.

It has twenty or thirty ſail of ſhips belonging to its harbour.

Here is a free-ſchool, founded by king Charles I.

Its manor did lately, if it does not at preſent, belong to the duke of Bolton.

Its markets are on Wedneſday and Saturday, and its fairs on Good-Friday, April 16, May 10, July 20, September 26, and December 13.

REM. XXVI.

Fowey, or Foy, which has a commodious haven in the Engliſh channel, is 192 computed, and 240 meaſured miles from London.

Its inhabitants are concerned principally in the fiſhing-trade, but more particularly in pilchards.

Threeſcore ſail of ſhips (according to Mr. Carew) once belonged to this harbour, of which forty-ſeven were ſent to the ſiege of Calais; and Camden aſſures us, that this town quartered a part of the arms of every one of the cinque-ports, with their own, thereby intimating, that at times they had triumphed over them

them all. And at one time in particular they were ſo powerful, that they took ſeveral of the French men of war.

In the reign of king Edward III. they reſcued certain ſhips of Rye from diſtreſs; for which generous action this town was made a member of the Cinque-ports.

King Edward IV. favoured this town ſo much, that when the French threatened to come up the river and burn it, he cauſed two towers immediately to be erected for its ſafety; but he was afterwards ſo diſguſted with the inhabitants for falling upon the French, and inſolently cutting off the ears of the king's purſuivants, after a truce proclaimed with Lewis XI. that he took away all their ſhips and naval ſtores. In the laſt Dutch war, there was a chain 200 feet long, drawn croſs the river, betwixt the two forts abovementioned, which ſome ſay was ſtolen from them, and carried to Dartmouth.

Its market is on Saturday, and its fairs on Shrove-Tueſday, May-day, and September 16.

Here is a fine old church, a free-ſchool, and an hoſpital.

Here is likewiſe a coinage for the Tin.

St. Ger-

REM. XXVII.

St. Germains, ſituate on the little river Liver, which abounds with oyſters, is 180 computed and 220 meaſured miles from London.

Its market is on Friday, and its fairs on May 24 and Auguſt 1.

It had its name from St. Germanus, a biſhop in Burgundy, who reſided here, when he came over from France to preach againſt the Pelagian hereſy.

Though once a biſhop's ſee, it is now only a decayed village. The pariſh, however, is the largeſt in all Cornwall, being twenty miles in compaſs, and includes no leſs than ſeventeen ſeveral villages. 'Tis generally thought, that there are not ſo many gentlemens ſeats and lordſhips in any one pariſh beſides throughout the whole kingdom.

Its whole trade is fiſhing in Tiddiford river, which falls ten miles below the town into Plymouth harbour.

REM. XXVIII.

St. Michaels, ſituate betwixt the Briſtol channel and Truro, is 205 computed, and 261 meaſured miles from London.

Here

Here is no market, but two fairs, one on the Monday after Michaelmas, and the other on October 28.

Though it is but a mean hamlet, yet 'tis governed by a portreeve, who is annually choſen by a jury of the principal inhabitants out of the chief tenants, called deputy-lords of the manor, becauſe they hold lands in the borough.

REM. XXIX.

Newport, ſo called for its having a new gate built to it, is 209 miles from London. Its market is on Saturday, and its fairs on May-day, St. Margaret's and Holy-rood-day.

This was never incorporated, nor ſo much as ſtiled a borough. The cuſtom of the manor, however, which belonged once to St. Stephen's priory, but was afterwards given by king Charles II. to Sir William Morrice, in whoſe family it did lately, if it does not at preſent, remain, is to chuſe two perſons annually at the lord's court, who are called vianders; and theſe order their elections, and return the members.

St. Maws,

REM. XXX.

St. Maws, near Falmouth, is 261 miles from London, and though a mean hamlet, is remarkable for its caſtle, which was erected at the ſame time as Pendennis caſtle, over againſt it, by king Henry VIII. and is the largeſt in the kingdom, in order to defend the mouth of that harbour.

The inhabitants chiefly ſubſiſt by fiſhing.

This hamlet, like the former, was never incorporated, nor was ever ſtiled a borough.

It has no market, no church, chapel, or meeting-houſe; it has a fair, however, on the Friday after St. Luke.

REM, XXXI.

Kellington, ſituate on the river Lamara, is 174 computed, and 199 meaſured miles from London.

The chief trade of this hamlet is the woollen manufacture.

It is governed by a portreeve, who is choſen every year at the court-leet of the lord of the manor, which belongs to the Rolles's family in Devonſhire.

Its market is on Wedneſday, and its fairs on April 23, September 8, and November 1.

REM. XXXII.

The moſt remarkable places in this county, which ſend no members to parliament, are as follow, viz.

1 Falmouth,
2 Helford,
3 Penzance,
4 St. Buriens,
5 Mount's-bay,
6 Godolphin-hills,
7 St. Neots,
8 Padſtow,
9 Wadbridge,
10 Redruth,
11 Sheviock,
12 Craſthole,

And laſtly, Trematon caſtle.

REM. XXXIII.

Falmouth is 220 computed, and 282 meaſured miles from London.

Here the river Fale runs into the Britiſh channel.

This is a corporation town, and the richeſt and moſt extenſive trading one in all the county. It is conſiderably larger than any three of its boroughs that ſend members.

Its harbour is ſo commodious, that ſhips of the greateſt burthen come up to its quay.

'Tis guarded by the two caſtles of St. Maws and Pendennis above-mentioned, which have both garriſons; and there is ſuch ſhelter in the creek belonging to it, that the whole royal navy may ride here ſafe, let the wind blow from what quarter it will.

The town is well built, and its trade is greatly encreaſed ſince the eſtabliſhment of the pacquets between this place and Portugal and the Weſt-Indies; which not only bring over vaſt quantities of gold in ſpecie, or in bars, on account of the merchants of London; but the Falmouth merchants carry on a trade with the Portugueze in ſhips of their own; and they have a great ſhare too in the gainful pilchard-trade.

The cuſtom-houſe for moſt of the towns in this county is eſtabliſhed at this town, where the duties, including thoſe of the other ports, are very conſiderable.

This town gives title of viſcount to the family of Boſcawen.

Its market-day is on Thurſday, and its fairs on July 27, and October 30.

Helford,

REM. XXXIV.

Helford, ſituate between Falmouth and Market Jew, is a harbour where the Tin ſhips often take in their lading for London.

Here are ſeveral veſſels likewiſe for the pilchard-trade.

REM. XXXV.

Penzance, ſituate at the bottom of Mount's bay, ten miles from the Land's-end, is 231 computed, and 290 meaſured miles from London.

This place was burnt by the Spaniards in 1595, but ſoon rebuilt, and made one of the coinage-towns.

The town lies in the pariſh of Madern, which is noted for its reſtorative ſpring, it being very effectual in curing lameneſs; as alſo in removing divers chronic diſeaſes.

Its arms are St. John the Baptiſt's head in a charger.

It has ſeveral ſhips belonging to it, and carries on a very conſiderable trade.

Its market is on Thurſday, and its fairs on March 5, Trinity Thurſday, and Holy Thurſday.

Theſe three fairs were procured them by the anceſtors of the earl of Berkley.

This part of the ſhore abounds ſo with Lead, Tin, and Copper ore, that the veins thereof appear on the utmoſt extent of land at low-water-mark.

REM. XXXVI.

St. Burien is five miles from Penzance, and 296 from London.

It was a prebendary in king William the Conqueror's time, and belonged formerly to the pope; but was afterwards ſeized by one of the Edwards. It is now, however, an independent deanry, from whoſe ſpiritual juriſdiction there is no appeal but directly to the king, and 'tis held in commendam by the biſhops of Exeter.

REM. XXXVII.

Mounts bay, in the Britiſh channel, is 290 miles from London, and has a market on Saturday.

It is a gulph near Penzance, and derives its name from an adjacent mount, called by ſailors the Corniſh mount; but by others St. Michael's mount, from a chapel in the fort, which

which ſtands on the top of the rock, and is dedicated to that archangel.

This bay is a very ſafe harbour againſt the ſouth-winds, which makes Penzance the more frequented by ſhipping.

When the tide is out, the rock ſeems joined to the main-land; ſo that the people ſay, 'tis land and iſland on the ſame day.

REM. XXXVIII.

Godolphin hills, are four miles from Market Jew, which is 229 computed, and 284 meaſured miles from London.

This place gives title of earl to the family of that name, who were lords of them in king William the Conqueror's time; and Sir Francis Godolphin, one of their deſcendants daily employed ſo many men in the Tin-works that he paid 1000 l. per annum cuſtom to queen Elizabeth, and by his labour and invention together, advanced the Tin-trade ſo far, that the cuſtoms were encreaſed above 10000 l. annually to her majeſty.

Near theſe hills is a place called Rialton, which abounds with Tin-mines, from whence the late earl of Godolphin had firſt his title, of baron, and afterwards that of viſcount.

REM. XXXIX.

St. Neots, ſituate between Kellington and Bodmin, has a handſome church, with a great many Jewiſh traditions painted on the glaſs windows, which 'tis generally ſuppoſed they took from the Jews, who traded thither for Tin. The explication of all which is preſerved in the public library at Oxford in a book, written in the Corniſh tongue.

REM. XL.

Padſtow, ſituate at the mouth of the Camel, in the Briſtol channel, is 194 computed, and 232 meaſured miles from London.

It lies convenient for trade with Ireland. Its harbour, however, notwithſtanding 'tis the beſt in the northern part of the county, is of difficult and dangerous acceſs, without a ſkilful pilot.

The inhabitants carry on a conſiderable trade in ſlate-tiles, all the year round; but in the month of October they employ the beſt part of their time in fiſhing for herrings, which then come in ſhoals up the channel.

The inhabitants are ſuch remarkable lovers of mirth and good cheer, that from thence comes

comes the proverb, or by-word, the good fellowſhip of Padſtow.

Its market is on Saturday. New Iſland here is remarkable for camphire and ſea-fowl.

From this town to St. Ives is a moſt pleaſant fruitful country; the hills on the left abounding with Tin, Copper and Lead, which are all carried to the other ſhore.

REM. XLI.

Wadbridge, five miles from Padſtow, and 195 from London, is principally remarkable for its large ſtone bridge over the Camel, which runs to Padſtow, ſome of the arches whereof were founded by the architects on wool-packs, becauſe they could find nothing to erect them on but quickſands.

REM. XLII.

Redruth, ſituate between St. Ives and Truro, is 217 miles from London, and a pretty populous place, much reſorted to by the Tinners.

REM. XLIII.

Sheviocke, ſituate between Eaſtlow and Saltaſhe, is chiefly remarkable for a monument

in

in its church, of one Dennis a knight, who lies interred there; of whom there is an old tradition amongſt the inhabitants, that he undertook to build the church, and his lady a barn; and when both were finiſhed, and the expences ſummed up, the barn proved to coſt three-half-pence more than the church; which might well fall out, ſince (as our author obſerves) the barn was a large one, and the church but very ſmall.

REM. XLIV.

Craſthole, a little to the ſouth of Sheviock, is but a ſmall village, but a great thorough-fare; of which it is merrily ſaid, twelve houſes and thirteen cuckolds; but the villagers, when upbraided with it, take the ſneer as a very groſs affront.

REM. XLV.

Trematon caſtle was built before the Norman invaſion, and was the reſidence of the antient earls of Cornwall; though at preſent 'tis all in ruins, it ſtands high, and affords a delightful proſpect of Plymouth harbour.

The

REM. XLVI.

The principal monuments of antiquity in this county are Biſcaw-woane, at the Land's-end, and the Hurlers. The former conſiſts of nineteen ſtones, fixed in a circular form, at the diſtance of about twelve feet one from the other. The latter conſiſts of a great number of oblong, rough ſtones, in three circles, on the down, not far from Bodmin. Both which, in all probability, were ſepulchral monuments of the antient Britons, notwithſtanding the idle imaginations of the ſuperſtitious vulgar to the contrary.

REM. XLVII.

The principal ſeats in this county are four, viz.

Mount Edgecumbe,
Anthony,
Arwenack, And
Port Elliot.

Mount Edgecumbe, the fine ſeat of lord Edgecumbe, is ſituate near Saltaſhe and Bram-head, which is a noted ſea-mark. It ſtands in the midſt of a park, and has a charming proſpect of the winding harbour below it.

This

This ſeat was greatly admired by king Charles II. when he viſited it in his voyage to Plymouth.

Anthony, ſituate in the parts adjacent, is the ſeat of the Carews, and remarkable for its noble fiſh-pond, which lets in the ſea.

Arwenack, ſituate near Penryn, is the ſeat of the Killigrews, whoſe anceſtor, Sir Peter, in Oliver Cromwell's time, rode from Madrid in Spain, quite thro' France, croſſed the ſea, and got to London in ſeven days.

Port Elliot is the noble manſion-houſe of the Elliot's family, which fronts the river Tiddiford, in its paſſage through the pariſh of St. Germains, to the harbour of Plymouth.

REM. XLVIII.

Scilly-Iſlands and rocks, ſituate in the midway between the Britiſh and Briſtol channels, are between 140 and 150 in number, and thirty miles from the Land's end in Cornwall; to which they are ſuppoſed (as we have before hinted) to have been formerly joined, but ſeparated from it, and from each other, by ſome violent eruption of the ſea, which is here between forty and threeſcore fathom deep.

Theſe

Theſe rocks, called by the Greeks (as has been hinted likewiſe before) Caſſiterides, by Solinus the Silures, and by the Dutch ſailors Sorlings, having been conquered by Athelſtan, one of the Saxon kings, have ever ſince been deemed a part of Cornwall.

The largeſt and moſt fruitful of theſe iſlands is St. Mary's, notwithſtanding it is but nine miles in circumference; tho' Scilly was once reckoned the moſt conſiderable.

It has a good harbour and a caſtle erected by queen Elizabeth.

Though this and ſome others ſtand very high, yet they are frequently overflowed at high tides.

Some of theſe iſlands bear good corn, and moſt of them good paſture. They abound with rabbets, cranes, herons, ſwans, and other water-fowl.

There are ſeveral Tin-mines here, for which formerly the Phænicians, Carthaginians, and the Romans frequented theſe iſlands; and the latter ſent their criminals to dig in them; but the inhabitants at preſent reap little or no benefit or advantage from them, being content with bartering what they have for neceſſaries; for their chief food is fiſh, and the milk and fleſh of their cattle.

Theſe

Theſe iſlands are ſo ſituated, that 'tis no wonder they have proved the deſtruction of too many lives as well as ſhips; for notwithſtanding all their light-houſes, or the ſkill of their mariners, ſhips, in the dark of night, and by ſtreſs of weather, are in very great danger of running bump-aſhore upon Scilly, where they are moſt aſſuredly daſhed to pieces.

This calls to mind the much lamented fate of Sir Cloudeſly Shovel, who, in the admiral-ſhip, with three men of war more, running upon theſe rocks, right afore the wind, in a dark night, on the 22d of October, 1707, was loſt, and not one man ſaved out of all the ſhips.

'Tis ſaid, that many years ago, eleven ſail of merchant-ſhips, homeward-bound from the ſouthward, and ſome from Spain, with a great quantity of bullion, &c. met with the like fate in the ſelf-ſame place. In ſhort, ſhipwrecks are ſo frequent here, that ſome treaſure or other often drives aſhore, eſpecially in ſtormy weather: after which the ſands are generally covered with country-people, in queſt of what the ſea throws up, which the ſailors call going aſhoring; nor are there wanting, at ſuch times, projectors and others, with engines for diving.

THE

THE
Natural Beauties
OF
DEVONSHIRE.

DIALOGUE II.

BETWEEN

TUTOR and PUPIL.

PUPIL.

BY what name was this county diſtinguiſh'd in the time of the Romans?

TUTOR.

As this county was but another portion of that part of Britain, now called Corn-

wall, it then bore the denomination of Dunmonium.

P. Has it not, however, received divers appellations ſince?

T. Yes, for the Corniſh-Britons diſtinguiſh'd it by the name of Drunan, and the Welſh Britons by that of Duffneynt.

P. Pray, what may be the ſignification of thoſe terms?

T. Deep valleys or bottoms; and the reaſon is very obvious; becauſe their habitations for the moſt part, are erected in thoſe low places.

P. Does it retain thoſe names ſtill?

T. No; for at preſent it is called Denſhire, or Devonſhire.

P. From whence does it derive that new appellation?

T. From the induſtry of the huſbandmen there, who conſtantly practiſe the art of Denſhiring; that is to ſay, of paring and burning the ſurface of their lands, in order the better to cultivate and improve them.

P. How is this county ſituated?

T. It lies between latitude 50° 66′ and 51° 15′, and between 30° 0′, and 4° 40′, weſt longitude from London.

P. Of what circumferance may it be?

T. Above

T. Above 200 miles; that is to ſay, about 64 in breadth, and 70 in length.

P. How is this county bounded?

T. On the north by the Severn ſea, or Briſtol channel; on the eaſt by Somerſetſhire; on the ſouth by the Engliſh channel; and on the weſt by Cornwall.

P. In what dioceſe does it lie, and how many acres does it contain?

T. It is ſituate in the dioceſe of Exeter, and contains very little leſs than 1,900,000 acres.

P. What rivers, pray, water this county?

T. It would be needleſs to enumerate them, but there are more belonging to it than to any other county throughout the whole kingdom of Great Britain.

P. How is the temperature of its air?

T. Mild enough, and very healthful in their valleys or bottoms; but upon their hills it is exceſſively cold and bleak.

P. How is the ſoil of it?

T. Very various, for the lower grounds are by nature fertile, yet they are made much more ſo, by the art and induſtry of thoſe who have eſtates in thoſe bottoms: the hills, however, are perfectly barren.

P. What parts of this county are the moſt pleaſant and plentiful?

T. There is great plenty, not only of good corn but fine paſturage for ſheep, in the eaſtern parts of this county, eſpecially where the lands are dry and chally: the ſouthern part however, is more remarkably fruitful, and may with as much juſtice be called the garden of Devonſhire, as Italy is univerſally allowed to be the garden of the world.

P. Have they abundance of fruit in this county?

T. Yes, they have as great a variety of all ſorts of fruit trees as in any other part of the kingdom whatſoever; but as to their apple trees, there are ſuch numbers of them that ſeveral of the copy-hold tenants there diſcharge their whole rents out of the profits and produce of that commodity only; for they principally employ them in making of cyder, for which liquor there is a great call, not only at home, but in foreign parts.

P. What home conſumption may they have?

T. There are ſome who peremptorily aſſert, that no leſs than ten thouſand hogſheads of this cyder are ſent from this county to London only, one year with another.

P. How

P. How can that poſſibly be, ſince there is very little of it to be procur'd in any part of that city, that is perfectly neat.

T. It cannot eaſily indeed, be abſolutely accounted for; but it is very natural to conjecture that ſince 'tis of a higher ſpirit, and and much more vigorous than the Hereford cyder itſelf, that it is bought up by the ſubſtantial Vintners there, who very artfully, as well as ſecretly, make uſe of large quantities of it, together with ſuch ingredients as they judge moſt proper for that purpoſe, in order to brew a kind of Claret, which they can eaſily palm upon ſuch of their cuſtomers as have little or no judgment, and pay more regard to the quantity than the quality of what they drink in perfect profuſion. Beſides, 'tis highly probable, that the beſt ſort of this liquor, which is made at Southam, and the parts adjacent, being kept ſome conſiderable time, and duly manag'd may paſs better, and with leſs ſuſpicion, for white-wine; ſince it has as good at leaſt, if not a better body than white-wine itſelf in reality.

P. Do they export then any great quantities of it to foreign parts?

T. Yes, for ſuch merchants as go long voyages at ſea, find it a very ſerviceable drink in their ſhips, and for that reaſon lay in large ſtores of it; for one ton of cyder we are told, will go as far, if not farther, than three of beer; beſides, 'tis found by experience to be much more wholſome for their reſpective crews, eſpecially in hot climates.

P. As you have intimated, Sir, that this country has ſuch a number of rivers belonging to it, how many of them pray are there, that are really worthy of notice?

T. Two only, that is to ſay, the Tamar and the Ex.

P. Where does the former take its riſe, and into what place does it diſcharge its waters?

T. Its ſource, or fountain lies near Welcomb, and runs into the Engliſh channel at Plymouth.

P. What courſe does it take?

T. From north to ſouth.

P. For what is it peculiarly remarkable?

T. It not only ſeparates, or divides this county from Cornwall; but it is famous both for the quantity, as well as the quality of its ſalmon.

P. What

P. What courſe does the Ex form, and wherein does its waters fall?

T. It forms a courſe on the ſame points as the Tamar, and paſſing by the city of Exeter, diſembogues its waters into the ſame ſea.

P. Does this river, as well as the former, abound with ſalmon?

T. Yes; in the ſeaſon of their ſpawning.

P. Have not both of them a great variety of common fiſh, as well as ſalmon?

T. Yes; they both have plenty of fiſh of all denominations; but none are ſo advantageous to them as the herring and the pilchard.

P. Why ſo?

T. Becauſe they export them into foreign parts in great quantities; and bring back all ſorts of commodities into the county in exchange for them.

P. Are there not divers chalybeate mineral waters found in this county, and where?

T. Yes, ſeveral; and they are to be met with in particular at Cleave, Taviſtock, Lamerton and Lifton; all which are peculiarly remarkable for their ſingular ſervice in the removal of divers dangerous and epidemic diſtempers: But beſides theſe, there is a well, called Laywell, near Brixam upon Torbay, that

that demands the attention of the moſt inquiſitive reader.

P. Can you give me a particular account of it from any authors that have been upon the ſpot, and have made their particular reſearches into the nature of it?

T. Yes; from two gentlemen in particular, of undoubted veracity, namely, the celebrated Dr. Oliver, ſome time ſince deceaſed, and Mr. Benjamin Martin, who is now living; each of them have obliged the public with their ſeparate obſervations thereon, I ſhall take the liberty for your inſtruction, as well as amuſement, to tranſcribe them as I found them. The account given by the former I have extracted from Mr. Lowther's abridgment of the Philoſophical Tranſactions, vol. ii. page 305. And that of the latter from his miſcellaneous amuſements.

"Laywell (ſays the doctor) is near Torbay, about ſix feet long, five feet broad, and near ſix inches deep; which ebbs and flows every hour viſibly enough. I am informed 'tis moſt conſtant winter and ſummer; though I am apt to think it moves faſter in winter, when the well is fuller, than in ſummer: Becauſe when I obſerved it firſt (in July 1693) I think it flowed ſomewhat quicker than I found it did

did on my ſecond obſervation, toward the end of Auguſt following; for the water was then conſiderably ſhrunk in the well, notwithſtanding we had for a fortnight, much rain: and though, when once it began to flow, it performed its flux and reflux in a little more than a minnte's time; yet I obſerved it would ſtand at its loweſt ebb ſometimes two or three minutes; ſo that it ebbed and flowed by my watch about ſixteen times in an hour, and ſometimes I have been told twenty.——As ſoon as the water in the well began to riſe, I ſaw a great many bubbles aſcend from the bottom; but when the water began to fall, the bubbling immediately ceaſed. I meaſured its high and low-water marks, and found them between five and ſix inches diſtant; not of perpendicular depth, but as it ſpread itſelf on a broad ſtone, as the ſea does on a beach or ſhore. Though I am apt to think its perpendicular height would be as much, or more in that time, were its out-let dammed up to try an experiment: For as it riſes, it runs with a ſmall ſtream, which is greater or leſs, according as the water in the well riſes and falls.

That it has any communication with the ſea is not manifeſt, nor is the water brackiſh at all. The whole country adjacent is very hilly

hilly all along the coaſt, inſomuch that from Brixam to the top of the hill is about a mile and half; and the well is about half way up the hill (which hereabout is ſomewhat uneven and interrupted) and comes out at a ſmall deſcent, yet conſiderably higher than the ſurface of the ſea.

I tried it with an oaken leaf, as ſoon as I ſaw it the firſt time, but could not find it change colour. I drank of it; 'tis very ſoft and pleaſant; has no manner of roughneſs in it, and ſerves for all manner of uſes to the country people in their houſes; they alſo uſe it in fevers, as their ordinary diet drink, which ſucceeds mighty well."

To this account of the doctor's, I ſhall ſubjoin Mr. Martin's remarks, which he aſſures us he made on the ſpot, two days ſucceſſively, ſo lately as the year 1751.

" The form of the well now is not ſquare, but nearly round, and being raiſed above the ground with ſtones, the waters now ſtand higher, and there is about an inch and half difference in the perpendicular; when we obſerved it, there was no irregularity in the time of its ebbing and flowing; for both together conſtantly happened in ſix minute's time, or ten times in an hour, as we obſerved by a watch for

for many hours together, and this not only of the waters in the well, but more exactly in holes which we cauſed to be dug in the road by the ſide of the well; for theſe holes were conſtantly filled and emptied by turns, and it was very pleaſant to ſee the water at firſt ruſh in through ſeveral ſmall paſſages 'till the hole was filled, which little flood would continue near three minutes, then it would begin to ebb, and ſo continue for ſomething more than three minutes, 'till the hole was dry, and we could ſee the water run away through the little ducts; in a very ſhort time it returned again, and ſo on continually without any variation that we could obſerve, and this was the caſe in all parts of the ground about the well, as far as we made the experiment: on this account, thoſe little reciprocating ponds or ſprings, became the common ſubject of play or paſtime to the children of the neighbourhood. We formed a deſign of ſtopping up the out-lets, in order to ſee how high the water would riſe in the well, and accordingly employed a man two hours about it, but to no purpoſe, there being ſo many ſubterraneous paſſages by which it goes out. The waters of this well ſupplies a ſtream of about five feet wide, and what is very remarkable,

markable, the waters of the whole ſtream ebbed and flowed with the well about half an inch, as was always ſeen by the ſtones in the brook. It was ſomething odd to ſuppoſe the waters of this well ſhould come from the ſea, ſince it is very manifeſt it does not, as it is at a very conſiderable height above the level of the ſea, the grounds juſt above it, on the contrary ſide, riſing very high; and from waters gathered in the ſubterraneous baſons in this hill, proceeds this wonderful reciprocating fountain.

P. What curioſities are to be met with on the ſeveral coaſts of this county?

T. In the firſt place, then, 'tis very obſervable, that though Torbay is but a little, petty village, about twelve miles north of Dartmouth; yet its bay, which lies in the Britiſh channel, and is about twelve miles in compaſs, is one of the fineſt roads for ſhips, that all England can boaſt of: And as an indiſputable proof of its great importance, it will not be improper to obſerve, that this bay was the general ſtation of our fleets during the whole time that king William's war was carried on with France. And here it was, that his ſaid majeſty, when prince of Orange only, was landed by admiral Herbert, on the 5th

of

of November, in the memorable year 1688, from the fleet which brought him from Holland, under that admiral's command, whom afterwards he conſtituted earl of Torrington, as a grateful acknowledgment of his faithful ſervices at that critical conjuncture; and as the happy conſequences that attended that expedition are ſo univerſally known, it would be altogether needleſs, if not impertinent to enlarge upon them. It muſt be confeſſed, however, that though that road be ſo highly valuable in itſelf, and ſo juſtly admired, yet ſtill there is one inconvenience that attends it; for a ſouth, or a ſouth-eaſt wind will too frequently oblige our ſhips to put out from thence to ſea, or at leaſt to run into Dartmouth.

Another great curioſity in nature, though fifty miles in the ſea, off the north-weſt coaſt of Devonſhire, is Lundy-iſland, which is five miles long, and two broad; but is ſo encompaſſed with inacceſſible rocks, that it has but one entrance into it, and that likewiſe ſo remarkably narrow, that two men can ſcarce go a breaſt. The ſouth part of this iſland, indeed, is indifferently good ſoil, and ſuch as is not to be complained of; but then the

north part of it is not only, in a great meaſure, barren, but has a high pyramidical rock, called the Conſtable, which is the juſt object of any curious ſpectator's admiration.

On the coaſt of this country, there is found in plenty likewiſe a peculiar rich ſand, which proves of ſingular ſervice to ſuch huſbandmen as live at ſome conſiderable diſtance from the ſhore, and can afford to purchaſe it for the improvement of their poor and lean lands; for the remoter their reſidence is from the ſea-ſide, the commodity advances proportionably in price. The quality of this ſand is of ſo extraordinary a nature, that it renders the moſt barren land fruitful, and, as it were, impregnates the glebe. The curious and inquiſitive reader, if he be inclined to pry farther into the innate virtues of this remarkable ſand, may be better informed by conſulting the Philoſophical Tranſactions, N° 103, which, for brevity's ſake, we chuſe rather to refer to than tranſcribe.

Thoſe husbandmen, however, who live at too great a diſtance from the ſea-ſhore, and whoſe circumſtances are too narrow to purchaſe a ſufficient quantity of that valuable manure,

manure, are reduced to the neceſſity of uſing marle, lime, and the the turf of the ground, skinned off, and burnt to aſhes; which method of agriculture, is very agreeable to the rule preſcribed by Virgil, in his firſt Georgic.

Sæpe etiam ſteriles, &c.

Long practice has a ſure improvement found,
With kindled fires to burn the barren ground;
When the light ſtubble to the flames reſign'd,
Is driv'n along, and crackles in the wind.
Whether from hence the hollow womb of earth,
Is warm'd with ſecret ſtrength for better birth;
Or, when the latent vice is cur'd by fire,
Redundant humours thro' the pores expire;
Or, that the warmth diſtends the chinks, and makes
New breathings, whence new nouriſhment ſhe takes;
Or, that the heat the gaping ground conſtrains,
New knits the ſurface, and new ſtrings the veins;
Leſt ſoaking ſhow'rs ſhould pierce her ſecret ſeat,
Or freezing Boreas chill her genial heat;
Or ſcorching ſuns too violently beat.

DRYDEN.

P. What is the principal commodity of this county?

T. Though the inhabitants, it muſt be allowed, ſtand in no want of horſes, kine, hogs, goats, ſheep, or rabbets; yet their principal commodity is fowl, which they enjoy in ſuch a profuſion, that their eggs lie thick upon the ground at their ſeaſon of breeding. To this we ſhall only add an obſervation or two, which we imagine ſomewhat extraordinary, and highly worthy of notice; for, in the firſt place, we are informed, that notwithſtanding the iſland lies ſo far in the ſea, as has been already mentioned, yet it has divers ſprings of fine freſh water: and again, the inhabitants inſiſt, whether it be real fact or not we cannot determine, that no venemous creature, of what nature or ſpecies ſoever, will live amongſt them.

P. What is the town of Lidford, which ſtands on the little river Lid, peculiarly remarkable for?

T. For its being pent up with rocks at the bridge there, and for making itſelf ſo deep a fall into the ground by inceſſant working, that the water is ſcarcely to be ſeen, or

the

the murmurs of it to be heard, to the no ſmall aſtoniſhment of all ſtrangers who have curioſity enough in them to liſten to ſo uncommon an occurrence.

P. Is there not another phænomenon at about a mile's diſtance from the bridge, which is ſtill a greater object of admiration than the former?

T. Yes; and that is a cataract, or fall of water, from the height (according to the neareſt computation) of about one hundred feet.

P. From whence does this water proceed?

T. From a mill at ſome conſiderable diſtance; and after a courſe upon a deſcent of near an hundred feet from the level of the mill, it arrives at the brink of a ſteep rock; from whence it projects in a very beautiful manner, and ſtriking upon a part of the clift, by which it is in ſome meaſure divided, it falls from thence in a wider cataract to the bottom; where ſtriking the earth with ſuch great violence, as muſt be acquired in ſuch a prodigious fall, it makes a deep and foaming baſon in the ground, from whence it goes in a ſtream to the river Lid, which comes from between the hills.

This wonderful fall of water fills the air all around at the bottom with ſuch an atmoſphere of aqueous particles, that a perſon finds himſelf in a miſt, as it were, in his approach; and the air is put into ſuch violent agitations, that you can ſcarcely bear to come, or ſtand near the place. It is reported, that travellers, who have ſeen this cataract, have allowed it to equal at leaſt, if not exceed any one they ever met with abroad; and therefore, it is much to be wondered at, that ſo very great a curioſity, and ſubject of natural hiſtory, ſhould have been paſſed over in ſilence, in every edition of Cambden, and even in Magna Britannia itſelf.

P. Were there not ſome ſilver mines diſcovered formerly in this county?

T. Yes; in the reign of king Henry IV. ſome few were found in the pariſh of Beare-Ferris; but they have been long ſince diſcontinued, as not anſwering the expence, that unavoidably attended the ſearch after them.

P. What curioſities are to be met with near Plymouth?

T. In

T. In the firſt place, a remarkable rock, now called the Haw, a hill between the town and the ſea, on the top whereof, which is a remarkable fine plain, there is a moſt delightful proſpect on all ſides, and a curious compaſs for the ſervice of ſailors.

We were credibly informed by a gentleman at Plymouth, that in a ſmall iſland in that harbour, there is found, in the cavernous parts, conſiderable quantities of that wonderful foſſil, called Iſeland Cryſtal, remarkable for its ſingular property of a double refraction of light.

Not far from Plymouth, juſt mentioned, is the Eddy-ſtone, a very dangerous rock to ſailors; but of late years rendered of very great uſe, by means of a ſtately light-houſe built upon it. At the mouth of the river Avon ſtands Si. Michael's rock, which is ſeveral acres in circumference. Dart-moor, ſo called from the river Dart, which it gives riſe to, makes the midland part of the weſtern ſide of this country; it is very high and mountainous; but in the lower parts very ſwampy and mooriſh; in other parts very rocky and full of ſtones; in winter time, the roads over it are very difficult to find, and dangerous

dangerous to paſs: it affords great quantities of Moor-ſtone, and ſome Load-ſtones, but of an inferior ſort.

P. What other curioſities are to be met with near South Moulton, in the foreſt of Dart-moor, and on that part of the north coaſt called the Burrows, near Biddeford?

T. Near the former is a quarry of ſtone, of ſo fine a grain, and ſo hard, at the ſame time, that they make, perhaps, the beſt whet-ſtones in the kingdom for the finer ſort of edge-tools, ſuch as joiners, cabinet-makers, &c. uſe; and indeed great quantities are made and ſold for that purpoſe to London and other places.

In the ſaid foreſt (firſt made one by king John) there were formerly many valuable Tin-works. This foreſt is very extenſive, being no leſs than twenty miles in length, and fourteen in breadth. Every ſummer it yields paſture for near 100,000 ſheep, beſides a proportionable number of other cattle. It ſupplies likewiſe the north, weſt, and ſouth with a great variety of little pleaſant rivers.

On the Burrows are the greateſt quantity of the largeſt and moſt beautiful pebbles that are any where to be ſeen. Indeed, they are ſo regularly

regularly veined, and variegated with colours, that it ſeems, as it were, the work of art. The bank of pebbles is near three miles long, very deep and wide; they are ſmooth as marble, of an oblong form, and in general, from ſix to ſixteen or twenty inches in diameter the ſhorteſt way, and two feet the other, of the largeſt ſort.

P. What is remarkable in regard to the river Iſca, otherwiſe called Iſc and Ex?

T. It flows by Exeter and Topſham, with a large ſtream into the ocean at Exmouth. Its head lies in a foul, barren ground, and riſes after a very uncommon manner.

P. Is there not ſomething highly worthy the attention of the curious in ſome of the hills adjacent to Dart moor?

T. Yes; on the top of one of them in particular, which is the higheſt, there is a plain, almoſt of a circular form, near a mile in diameter, which is full of little ſprings; and there being no declivity, nor commodious paſſage for the waters, they frequently ſwell upon the ſurface of the earth. The perpetuity of which waters (without any regard to the ſeaſons of the year, or the weather) has given occaſion for ſome people to ſurmiſe, that they were not derived in the ordinary

ordinary way, from condenſed ſnow, clouds, rain, miſts, dews, &c. but by ſome under-current. Now, as this is manifeſtly contrary to all true reaſoning, and nothing of the like kind is to be found in any other place, it is not likely to be the caſe here, but muſt be a miſtake, ariſing from the inaccuracy of the obſervations that are made upon it.

P. What is there peculiarly found in the weſtern and ſouth-weſtern parts of Devon?

T. In the former, the greateſt quantity imaginable of game, eſpecially hares, pheaſants, and woodcocks, in ſo great abundance, as to render them very cheap in theſe parts. And we are aſſured by ſome gentlemen at Taviſtock, that there is in this part of the country, a bird ſo very ſmall, that it is reputed a humming-bird, and like that, hangs its neſt by a thread from the extreme bough of a tree.

In the latter is diſcovered a great quantity of marble; yea, in many places we find marble rocks as the baſis of the road we travel on; and this marble, when poliſhed, is little inferior to ſome we have from abroad; and

and accordingly is much uſed by the gentry in thoſe parts.

P. Whatis the river Ottery peculiarly remarkable for?

T. The river Ottery, in this county, is peculiarly remarkable for its Otters, or Water-Dogs, with which amphibious animals its waters abound.

P. What curioſities are to be met with at North Taunton?

T. There is a pit of large circumference, ten feet deep, out of which ſprings up a little brook, or bourne, which continues for ſeveral days. Such of the inhabitants as are ſuperſtitiouſly inclined, imagine, that this bourne is the fore-runner of ſome public and and fatal diſaſter. 'Tis very obſervable, likewiſe, that the river Taw, which riſes in the very heart of this country, upon a ſpring-tide, at every new and full moon, overflows the meadows at Barnſtaple, to that degree, that the town itſelf ſeems a peninſula.

P. What farther curioſities are to be met with in the parts adjacent to Martin's Comb, or Comb-Martin?

There is a cove for the landing of boats; and the lands lying round about it, are noted for

for yielding the beſt hemp, and that in a greater abundance than in any other part of the county.

Though the hills, that are adjacent to Comb-Martin before-mentioned, are incapable, 'tis true, of being cultivated, (as the vales or bottoms are) on account of their being not only rocky, but very ſteep; yet on the other hand, they have their peculiar advantages, which equal at leaſt, if not by far ſurpaſs, the profits ariſing from the induſtry of the farmer in any other parts; for they are impregnated, not only with rich mines of ſilver, but with tin, lead, iron and copper, with ſome ſmall mixture of gold and diamonds.

P. As thoſe ſilver mines, which you have been laſt ſpeaking of, have for many years laſt paſt, been totally neglected, did they ever prove of any real and important ſervice to the crown of England?

T. Yes; 'tis evident, beyond all contradiction, that in former times, they were greatly regarded, and proved very advantageous; for we find, not only ſeveral grant made by king Edward III. and other kings, for carrying them on with the reſervation of

the

the tenths of the church, but from the records of the Exchequer, it appears what immenſe ſums have been raiſed from the working them; for in the year 1293, one William de Wymondham was overſeer of thoſe works, and by his art and induſtry, there were then refined out of the lead ore no leſs than 370 pound weight of fine ſilver, which king Edward I. gave for a portion with his daughter Eleanor to the count de Barre.

There were refined likewiſe the very next year 521 pounds weight of ſilver, which was ſent to London, in order to be coined there; and in the year then next enſuing, in which the Derbyſhire miners were ſent to aid and aſſiſt the above-named William de Wymondham, he ſent 700 pounds weight of ſilver more to the mint for the ſame purpoſe.

P. Were not thoſe mines, however, afterwards diſcontinued for ſome conſiderable time?

T. Yes; but then in queen Elizabeth's reign they were entered upon again by one Sir Francis Bulmer, a curious artiſt in the refining way, who got great quantities of ſilver from them, whereof he ordered two cups, very rich and capacious, to be made, and preſented one of them to William Bourchies,

then earl of Bath, and the other to Richard Martin, then lord mayor of London, with proper inſcriptions upon them, but too long and tedious to be here recited.

The weight of the former we have no particular account of, but the latter, we are told, weighed 137 ounces.

P. Was not this county, in former ages, very remarkable on account of its Tin-mines?

T. Yes, doubtleſs; and as an inconteſtible proof of its being ſo, there were formerly four ſtannaries or juriſdictions, and as many ſtannary-courts and coinage namely, Plimpton, Taviſtock, Aſhburton, and Chagford.

P. How far did the power of thoſe ſtannary-courts extend?

T. By theſe were choſen, from time to time, by the order and direction of the then lord-warden, certain jurates, to meet in a ſeſſion of parliament at Crokern-Torr, an high hill in the midſt of Dart-more.

P. What power had that parliament?

T. It was authorized to make laws touching the eſtates of the mines and ſtannaries, a large volume whereof was printed in the reign of

of queen Elizabeth, at that time, when the earl of Bedford was lord-warden.

P. What concluſion would you draw from thence?

T. I infer from thence, that the Tin-trade was at that time very conſiderable; for otherwiſe there would have been no neceſſity for any ſuch authorities to ſupport it.

P. What was the ſtate of the Tin-trade in the reign of king John?

T. 'Tis ſelf-evident that Devonſhire produced a much larger quantity of Tin than Cornwall itſelf; the coinage of the former being farmed at 100*l.* annually; whereas what the latter produced was valued at no more than 100 marks.

P. In what ſtate and condition, however, is the Tin-trade of this county at preſent?

T. Now, indeed, it muſt be acknowledged, that Cornwall has almoſt the whole trade; for notwithſtanding there are ſtill ſome works here, the advantages are very trivial and inſignificant, unleſs in two or three very lately opened.

P. Were there ever any gold mines diſcovered in this county?

T. Some few; but for want of fuel, and ſome other ſubſtantial reaſons, never have been, nor ever will, we preſume, be brought to perfection.

P. What character, pray, did the antient inhabitants of this county bear?

T. They were repreſented as perſons altogether intrepid, prodigal of life, conſtant in affection, courteous to ſtrangers, and extreamly fond of popular applauſe.

P. What âccount does Diodorus Siculus give of them, when they went under the denomination of the Dunmonii?

T. He aſſures us, that thoſe original inhabitants were a civil and courteous people in thoſe barbarous times, ſtout and puiſſant, taking heart even of the ſoil itſelf, and emboldened by the roughneſs of their country; and ſo magnanimous were they, that they were not totally ſubdued by the Saxons, till the year 465.

P. What character do the Devonians bear at this day?

T. They no ways deviate from the virtues of their illuſtrious anceſtors; for they are a bold and hardy people, to the laſt degree, and uſe their utmoſt endeavours to maintain

maintain their poſt of honour and reputation in the world. Their conſtitutions are ſtrong; they are quick of apprehenſion, and eaſily inſtructed in any employment whether military or civil. The lower claſs are very robuſt, very diligent and induſtrious, and very ready to ſerve their country either by ſea or land.

P. As you have before given me a ſatisfactory account of the various fruit-trees of this county, what plants are there in it that are ſcarcely to be met with in any other?

T. As one Mr. Pike has been pleaſed to communicate to the public an alphabetical liſt, or catalogue, of all ſuch plants as he found peculiarly remarkable within the pariſh of Biddeford, and the parts adjacent, I ſhall take the liberty here to tranſcribe it, which is as follows.

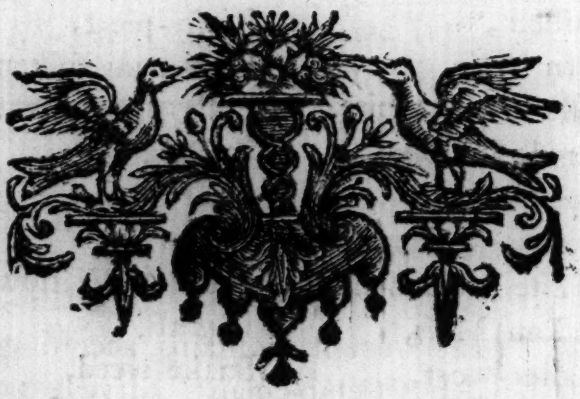
Adder's Tongue,
Agrimony,
Water Agrimony,
Alder, Black,
Wood Betony,
Water Betony,
Paul's Betony,
Biſhop's Weed,
Birds Foot.
Biſtort,
Briony, White,
———, Black,

Buck-bean,
Bugloſs,
Vipers Bugloſs,
Butchers Broom,
Brook-Lime,
Buck's Horn-Plantain,
Sweet-Briar,
Bugle,
Clowns-woundwort or All-heal,
Calamint,
Calamus Aromaticus,
Celandine, Great,
———, Small,
Centaury,
Croſs-wort,
Clary, Wild,
Cinquefoil,
Cranes-Bill,
Dwarf Elder,
Dittanden,
Devils-Bit,
Dodder,
Sun-Dew,
Fluellin,
Flax-Weed,
Figwort,
Fox-Glove,
Fumitory,
Crow Garlic,
Gout-wort, or Herb Gerard,
Stinking Gladin,
Glaſs-wort,
Golden-Rod,
Ground Ivy,
Gromwell,
Hawke-weed, of ſeveral ſorts,
Sea Holly,
Herb-two-pence,
Hounds-tongue,
Herb-Robert,
Horſe-tail,
Horn poppy,
Harts Tongue,
John's Wort,
Jack by the edge,
Job's Tears,
James-wort, or Ragwort,

Ladies

Ladies-bed-ſtraw, red, white and yellow,
Looſe-ſtrife,
Sea Lavender,
Liver-wort,
Aſh-colour Liver-wort,
Cup Moſs,
Mercury,
Mullein,
Fern Moſs,
Milk-wort, white, red, and blue,
Madder,
Golden Maiden-hair,
White Maiden-hair,
Beſſom Moſs,
Maſter-wort,
Vervain Mallow,
Melilot,
Mouſe-Ear, ſeveral ſorts,
Wild Marjoram,
Mug-wort,
Nep, or Nimproyal, or Cat-mint,
Navel-wort,
Nightſhade,
Orchis,
Oſmund royal,
Ox-Eye,
Ox-ſlips,
Orrice, ſtinking,
Wall-Pepper,
Peter's-wort,
Water-Pepper,
Parſly-piert,
Plowmans-ſpikenard,
Polly-pody of the Oak,
Queen of the Meadows,
Rue-leaf Witlow-graſs,
Snake-weed,
Scorpion-graſs,
Soap-wort,
Solomon's-ſeal,
Sanicle,
Burnet's Saxifrage,
Scabius,
Self-heal,
Smallage,

Smallage,
Snail-claver,
Spear-wort,
Tormentil,
Tway-blade,
Wild Thyme,
Valerian,
Vervain,
Winter-green,
Wood-sorrel.



ADDITIONAL.

ADDITIONAL

REMARKS.

REMARK I.

THIS county contains, according to Mr. Templeman's ſurvey, 2385 ſquare miles, in which are computed about 1,920,000 acres, 33 hundreds, 12 boroughs that ſend each two members to parliament, 40 market-towns, 394 pariſhes, 117 vicarages, 1733 villages, near 57,000 houſes, and 340,000 inhabitants. 'Tis in ſhort, the largeſt and moſt populous county

county in England, York-ſhire only excepted: Devonſhire however, is ſo full of great towns, and thoſe towns ſo full of people, and thoſe people ſo univerſally employ'd in trade, that it cannot be equall'd throughout all England.

REM. II.

This county has the honour of giving the title of duke and earl to the noble family of Cavendiſh.

REM. III.

There were more parliamentary boroughs in this county formerly than in any other county whatever, Cornwall only excepted; many of them are now miſus'd, as for inſtance the nine following, viz.

Bradninch,
Crediton,
Exmouth,
Fremington,
Lydeford,
Modbury,
South Moulton, and
Chipping Torrington.

There

REM. IV.

There were other corporations in this county whoſe charters are in force to this day, and which were as liable to be return'd as ſome of the former, by their ſheriffs (in whoſe power it was to return what borough they pleaſed) but pleading poverty, or making ſome other complaint of the like nature, they were excuſed from ſending members to parliament, as for inſtance the thirteen following, viz.

Bampton,
Biddiford,
Chadlington,
Dembery,
Hartland,
Newton Abbas,
Ilfordcomb,
Kenniford,
Milverton,
Pepilford,
Seale,
Troskebere, and Tichampton.

REM. V.

The following twelve boroughs ſtill enjoy the privilege of returning two members, namely,

Exeter

Exeter,	Honiton,
Totneſs,	Taviſtock,
Plymouth,	Aſhburton,
Okehampton,	Dartmouth,
Barnſtaple,	Beeralſton and Tiverton.
Plympton,	

And the county itſelf returning two, the whole amounts to twenty ſix.

REM. VI.

Exeter which is 138 computed miles and 172 meaſur'd miles from London, is the city and principal town in this county, it is alſo the ſee of a biſhop, which was tranſplanted to this place from Crediton, by Edward the Confeſſor, and takes its name from the river Ex. It was called Iſca by Ptolemy, Iſca Dunmoniorum, by Antonine in his itinerary, and Monkton, from the multitude of monks who formerly reſided there.

REM. VII.

This city, which is ſituated on a riſing ground, together with its ſuburbs, is two miles in circumference; it has ſix gates and four principal ſtreets, which all meet in

in the centre of the city, commonly, tho' corruptly called Carfox, for quartre voys, that is to ſay four ways, and divide the whole into four quarters, in every one of which are divers ſtreets and by-lanes. There are twenty churches in the city and ſuburbs, (excluſive of chapels and diſſenting meeting-houſes) thirteen whereof during the uſurpation of Oliver Cromwell, were expoſed to ſale by the common cryer: ſixteen of them are within the walls, and four without. The cathedral which is dedicated to St. Peter, is a very curious magnificent ſtructure vaulted throughout, being 350 feet in length and 75 in breadth: notwithſtanding it was 400 years before it was perfectly finiſh'd, it looks as uniform as if it had been erected by one man only; it has a ring of ten bells, which are reckoned the largeſt in England, as is likewiſe the organ; for the biggeſt pipe is fifteen inches diameter, and larger than that of the celebrated organ at Ulm by two inches. 'Tis cuſtomary to ſee hundreds of people there at the morning ſervice at ſix o'clock both winter and ſummer.

REM. VIII.

This city has had divers charters granted or confirmed by moſt of our kings, many of whom have honoured it with their preſence.

REM. IX.

It was made a mayor-town in the reign of king John, and a county of itſelf by king Henry VIII.

REM. X.

'Tis governed by a mayor, twenty four aldermen, a recorder, chamberlain, &c. they have alſo a ſheriff, town clerk, ſword bearer, and four ſtewards; and when they go to church, and in all publick proceſſions, they are attended by four ſerjeants at mace, and as many ſtaff bearers. Its members are choſen by the magiſtrates and freemen, who are at leaſt 1200.

It

REM. XI.

It had antiently a mint, and in the reign of king William III. many pieces of ſilver money were coined here, which may be diſtinguiſh'd by the letter E under the king's buſt.

REM. XII.

There are thirteen city companies, each of which is governed by officers choſen annually among them; the mayor or his officers, hear, try, and determine all pleas and civil cauſes between party and party, with the advice of the recorder, aldermen and common council of the city,; criminal cauſes, however, crown cauſes, and thoſe relating to keeping the peace, are determined by eight aldermen, who are juſtices of the peace.

REM. XIII.

In their guild hall are the pictures of general Monk, and the princeſs Henrietta Maria.

REM. XIV.

The bridge which runs over the river Ex is of a great length, and has houſes on both ſides and at both ends, with a good vacancy in the middle.

REM. XV.

This city is plentifully ſupplied with water, brought from the parts adjacent in pipes to ſeveral conduits, one whereof was erected by William Duke, mayor of the city in the reign of Edward IV.

REM. XVI.

The dean and chapter have their houſes about the cathedral, which, (like thoſe at Sarum) form what is called the cloſe; and within that circuit there are two churches to attend the cathedral: the dean, chanter, chancellor and treaſurer, are the four dignitaries of it; and to theſe are added four archdeaconries, viz. Exeter, Totneſs, Barnſtaple and Cornwall.

There

REM. XVII.

There is an old caſtle here, called Rougemont, from the red ſoil it ſtands in, whence there is a pleaſant proſpect from a beautiful terras walk with a double row of fine elms, up the channel ten miles to the ſouth, which is ſuppos'd to have been built by the weſt Saxon kings, and that they made it their reſidence, as did afterwards the earls and dukes of Cornwall, to whom it has appertained ever ſince. 'Tis at preſent greatly decay'd; a part of it, however, is ſtill reſerved for the aſſizes, quarter ſeſſions, and county courts, together with a chapel.

REM. XVIII.

In the ſouth gate, there are two common priſons, and a compter for arreſts upon actions.

REM. XIX.

In the city and ſuburbs there are ſeveral hoſpitals, a work houſe, alms houſes and charity ſchools; but one hoſpital in particular

cular for the ſick and lame poor of this city and county, which was founded by Dr. Alured Clark, dean of Exeter, and the firſt ſtone thereof was laid the 27th of Auguſt 1741, by him, accompanied by the biſhop and a great number of the neighbouring clergy who were ſubſcribers, beſides ſome thouſands of joyful ſpectators. This building is 300 feet in length, and erected after the model of the infirmaries of London and Weſtminſter.

REM. XX.

Formerly the ſea flow'd up to the walls of the city, and ſhips could load and unload at the place called the water gate; but Hugh Courtney, earl of Devon, being offended with the citizens on being diſappointed of ſome fiſh from the market, and being deſirous of advancing the trade of his manor of Topſham, which lies three miles lower made weirs, which for a long time ſo far obſtructed the navigation, that goods were brought hither from Topſham by land; and notwithſtanding the citizens obtained a decree of equity for the removal of thoſe weirs, yet ſuch was the earl's power and intereſt

intereſt that it did not avail them, and glad they were to preſerve the duties accruing to their town, which were paid at Topſham; about forty years ago however, the inhabitants, by the aid and aſſiſtance of an act of parliament, perfected a work, which they had began no leſs than an 100 years before, and cut ſuch a channel thro' the dams, that by the contrivance of ſluices and gates, veſſels of 150 tons can now come up to their quay.

REM. XXI.

Its markets are on Wedneſdays and Fridays, and it has ſeven ſeveral fairs, viz. Aſh-Wedneſday, Whit-Monday, Holy-Thurſday, July 22, Auguſt 1, December 6, and December 21. Lammas fair, however, is the greateſt, being much frequented by mercers, linen-drapers, haberdaſhers, &c. from London, and it laſts three whole days, and two half days. Notwithſtanding the great trade there is here for ſerges, Perpetuanas, long-ells, druggets, kerſeys, and other woollen goods made in this city and the parts adjacent, in which it is computed that

that at leaſt 600,000 l. per annum is traded for here; yet no markets were erected for wool, yarn and kerſeys, till the thirtieth of Henry VIII. Before that time, the merchants drove a conſiderable trade to Spain and France; and the latter were incorporated in the reign of queen Mary I. by the name of the governor, conſuls and ſociety of merchant-adventurers trading to France.

REM. XXII.

In this city there is a weekly ſerge-market, ſaid to be the greateſt in all England, the brigg-market at Leeds in Yorkſhire only excepted, and we are credibly informed, that ſome weeks as many ſerges have been ſold here as amount to 60 or 80,000 l. nay ſometimes to 100,000 l. for beſides the vaſt quantities of their woollen goods ſhipped for Portugal, Spain and Italy, the Dutch give large commiſſions for buying up ſerges, perpetuanas, &c. for Holland and Germany.

REM. XXIII.

'Tis particularly remarked of this city, that it is almoſt as full of gentry as of tradeſmen

tradeſmen, and that more of its mayors and bailiffs have deſcended from or given riſe to good families than in any other city of its bigneſs in the kingdom; for the great trade and flouriſhing ſtate of this kingdom tempted gentlemen to ſettle their ſons here, contrary to the practice of many of the inland as well as northern counties, where according to the vain and deſtructive notion of the Normans, trade was look'd upon by the gentry with an eye of contempt, and as fit only for mechanics and the vulgar.

REM. XXIV.

This city was under the juriſdiction of the Romans, whoſe coins have been frequently dug up therein, and in the parts adjacent. After they left England, the Saxons drove the Britons out of it into Cornwall, and encompaſſed it with a ditch and a ſtone wall (which ſtill remains entire) beſides bulwarks. The Danes attacked and ſpoiled it in the year 875, and afterwards in revenge of the general maſſacre of the Danes by the Engliſh, Swain, one of their kings

kings came hither with a great navy, put the men to the ſword, raviſhed the women, maſſacred the children, burnt the city and demoliſhed the walls. A long time after this, and juſt as the city was reviving, William the conqueror beſieged and took it; and it was beſieged again in the reigns of king Stephen and Edward IV; in the reign of Henry VIII. it was again beſieged by Perkin Warbeck, and moſt furiouſly battered; the citizens, however, compelled him to raiſe the ſiege, which ſo pleaſed the king, that he came hither and preſented a cap of maintenance to the city, and gave the very ſword from his ſide to be borne always before the mayor. In the reign of Edward VI. in July 1554, it was ſmartly cannonaded by the rebels in Cornwall and Devon, who almoſt ſtarved it by breaking down its bridges, cutting off its water, and ſtopping up all paſſages; but it held out manfully till the lord John Ruſſel came with a force and raiſed the ſiege on the 6th of Auguſt, which was then appointed as an anniverſary day of thankſgiving by the city, and is ſtill obſerved here as ſuch by the name of Jeſus

day

day, at which time a ſermon is preached on the occaſion by the mayor's chaplain.

REM. XXV.

King Charles the firſt's queen, to whom this city gave ſhelter in the civil wars, was here delivered of Henrietta, afterwards dutcheſs of Orleans. Here was a garriſon alſo for king Charles I. which was forced at laſt to ſurrender to lord Fairfax upon articles, whereby the princeſs was left entirely to the king's diſpoſal.

REM. XXVI.

Exeter, in ſhort, by a conſtant adherence to its motto, SEMPER FIDELIS, has been applauded by all hiſtorians, for its inviolable fidelity to its ſovereigns, whether they held their crown by hereditary or parliamentary right.

REM. XXVII.

It formerly gave the title of duke to the families of Beaufort and Holland, which was afterwards leſſened to that of marquis by king Henry

Henry VIII. in the perſon of Henry Courtney, and then it decreaſed to that of earl, in the perſon of treaſurer Burleigh, who was ſo created by king James I. and it ſtill continues in the illuſtrious family of the Cecils. This city had the honour of giving birth to Sir Thomas Bodley, the founder of that famous library at Oxford, and to the late lord chancellor King.

REM. XXVIII.

About a mile and half without the eaſt-gate of Exeter, is the pariſh of Heavy-tree, ſo called from the gallows erected for the execution of their malefactors; near which is a burial-place for them, purchaſed in the reign of king Edward VI. by the widow of one Mr. Tuckfield, the ſheriff of Exeter, who alſo left money to procure them ſhrouds.

REM. XXIX.

Totneſs, which has a fine bridge on the river Dart, leading to Berry Pemeroy, which is about eight miles from Dartmouth, is 160 computed, and 195 meaſured miles from London,

London, is a borough by preſcription, and the moſt antient in the whole county.

REM. XXX.

King John made it a corporation, conſiſting of fourteen burgo-maſters, one of whom is a mayor, who, with his predeceſſor and the recorder, are juſtices of the peace. There are twenty common-council men, and ſome few freemen elected by the mayor and maſters. Here is a ſpacious church with a fine tower, and four pinnacles, above ninety feet high, a town-hall, and a ſchool-houſe.

REM. XXXI.

Its chief trade is the woollen-manufacture; but here are more gentlemen than tradeſmen of note, and tho' the corporation is not the richeſt in England; yet ſo well affected are they to the eſtabliſhment of the preſent royal family, that its loyal addreſs to the late king George I. upon occaſion of the Vienna-treaty between the late emperor and the king of Spain will never be forgot, wherein the good people aſſured his majeſty of their readineſs, not only to grant him four ſhillings in the

pound land-tax, but if his ſervice required it, to give him the other ſixteen.

REM. XXXII.

This town, which ſuffered many alterations from Romans, Saxons, Danes and Normans, was formerly walled in, and had four gates, but only the ſouth-gate, and ſome ſmall parts of the reſt remain, and it had a caſtle, whoſe outward walls are ſtill entire, except the battlements. The famous Roman foſſe-way, which began here, though 1400 years old, is ſtill viſible in this place.

REM. XXXIII.

In the reign of king Charles I. this town gave title of earl to lord Carew of Clopton, as it afterwards did that of viſcount to the earl of Plymouth, a natural ſon of king Charles II.

REM. XXXIV.

Here is plenty of all proviſions, particularly good fiſh, and delicate trouts. One man will ſometimes take up thirty ſalmon at once, from ſeventeen to twenty inches long, for which

which he will ask but two-pence a-piece. The fiſhermen here catch ſalmon-peel with a ſpaniel trained up for the purpoſe, which drives them into a ſhove-net.

REM. XXXV.

Its markets are on Tueſdays and Saturdays; and it has three fairs, viz. May 1, Auguſt 15, and October 28.

REM. XXXVI.

This town belonged antiently to the lords Zouch, till the attainder of one of them in the reign of king Henry VII. who granted it to one Richard Edgcomb. Sir Edward Seymore purchaſed the caſtle, honour, and manor, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, from whoſe family they have ſince paſſed to the Bogans.

REM. XXXVII.

Here was once a priory. It firſt ſent members to parliament, in the twenty-third year of the reign of king Edward I.

REM. XXXVIII.

As this town is about ſeven or eight miles diſtant from the ſea, the river here is conſiderably broad; and the tide flows ten or twelve feet at the bridge.

REM. XXXIX.

Plymouth, which is 173 computed, and 215 meaſured miles from London, ſtands between the two rivers Plym and Tamar, juſt before their influx into the Britiſh channel; and from a meer fiſhing-town, is become the biggeſt in all the county, and contains in it almoſt as many ſouls as Exeter itſelf.

REM. XL.

This town is one of the principal magazines in the whole kingdom, which is in a great meaſure owing to the advantageous ſituation of its port, or rather its two harbours, that are capable of containing no leſs than 1000 ſail of ſhips, in as great ſafety, as the port of London itſelf.

It

REM XLI.

It is defended by ſeveral forts, which are mounted with no leſs than 300 guns; and particularly by a royal citadel, erected in the reign of Charles II. oppoſite to St. Nicholas iſland, (which lies within the circuit of its walls) and contains in it a large ſtore-houſe and five regular baſtions.

REM. XLII.

In war-time, the outward-bound convoys generally rendezvous here; and homeward-bound ſhips for the moſt part put in here, in order to furniſh themſelves with able and experienced pilots to conduct them up the channel, as men of war do to wait for a wind.

REM. XLIII.

About two miles up the mouth of the river Tamar (which inlet of the ſea is called Ham Ooze, as the mouth of the other is Catwater, and commanded by the caſtle on St. Nicholas iſland before mentioned) are two docks, built in the reign of king Wil-

liam III. one wet, the other dry, with a baſon of 200 feet ſquare before it, which has all the conveniencies requiſite for buildings or repairing of ſhips, is hewn out of a mine of ſlate, and lined with Portland-ſtone.

REM. XLIV.

This town has a good pilchard-fiſhing, and drives a conſiderable trade to the Streights and the Weſt Indies.

REM. XLV.

It has a cuſtom-houſe and two churches, which, notwithſtanding there are ſeveral rich and ſubſtantial meeting-houſes erected therein, have each ſo large a cure of ſouls, that the pariſh-clerks, till very lately, were in deacons orders, to enable them to perform all the ſacerdotal functions. The profits ariſing from the pews, are reſerved for the ſubſiſtence of the poor. The choice of the lecturers every three years, is veſted in the corporation, which was conſtituted in the reign of king Henry VI. and was to conſiſt of a mayor, twelve aldermen, and twenty-four common-council men. The mayor is elected by a jury of thirty-ſix perſons, choſen by four others,

others, of whom the mayor and aldermen chuſe two, and the common-council men the other two. Here is likewiſe a recorder and a town-clerk, whoſe place is very advantageous.

REM. XLVI.

The town is divided into four parts, which, till they had a mayor, were governed by as many captains, each of whom had three conſtables under him as aſſiſtants.

REM. XLVII.

It is well ſupplied with freſh water, which was firſt brought hither from a place ſeven miles off, at the ſole expence of Sir Francis Drake, who was born here.

REM. XLVIII.

Its markets are on Mondays, Thurſdays, and Saturdays; and it has two fairs, viz. on the 18 of October, and the Thurſday after the feſtival of St. Luke. The toll of the markets, and of the corn, yarn, &c. with the profits of the mill, which is very conſiderable, belongs to the corporation; as alſo the

the revenue of the ſhambles, which are farmed out at 160 l. per ann. for the more honourable ſupport of the mayor's kitchen.

REM. XLIX.

This town gives the title of earl to the lord Windſor.

REM. L.

Okehampton, otherwiſe called, Ockington, which is 160 computed and 193 meaſured miles from London, tho' but 20 from Exeter, is ſituate on the river Oke, a mile from its pariſh-church, which ſtands by itſelf on a hill, near the ſmall ruins of a caſtle there, erected in the reign of king William the Conqueror. 'Tis an antient borough and barony, governed by a mayor, 8 capital burgeſſes, and as many aſſiſtants, a recorder, a juſtice of the peace, and a town-clerk. It was incorporated by king James I.

The

REM. LI.

The town-hall is but a very mean one, and the chapel of eaſe is equally ſo; but in the reign of king James I. one of the family of the Trelawney's added a little neat tower, in order to give it the form of a chapel.

REM. LII.

The chief manufacture of this place is ſerges; but its principal ſubſiſtence ariſes from the numerous good inns that lie on the road from Launceſton to Crediton.

REM. LIII.

The manor of this borough is veſted in the 8 principal members of the corporation. This manor came, by marriage, from the Redver's family to the Courtenay's; of whom Robert, in the reign of king John, gave 500 l. and 5 palfreys, to have livery of the honour of Okehampton. His poſterity enjoyed it, till king Edward IV. ſeized it for the adherence of his deſcendants, to the houſe

houſe of Lancaſter, and granted the honour, caſtle, manor, and borough to Sir John Dynham, who alſo ſoon after forfeited them; and king Henry VII. reſtored them to the Courtenay's, one of whom being alſo attainted in the reign of king Henry VIII. that king diſmantled the caſtle, and deſtroyed the park, &c. but queen Mary revoked his attainder, and reſtored the honour and manor to his ſon Edward Courtenay. The manor, however, came afterwards to one Chriſtopher Harris, who married a daughter of the firſt lord Mohun, who was created baron of Okehampton, by king Charles I. and whoſe deſcendant (the laſt that had the title) was killed in a duel with duke Hamilton, in the year 1712.

REM. LIV.

This place had ſent burgeſſes to parliament only once in the reign of Edward I. and once likewiſe in that of Edward II. but king Charles I. reſtor'd it to that privilege.

Its

REM. LV.

Its markets are on Saturdays only; but its ſeven ſeveral fairs are kept on the days following, viz. on the ſecond Thurſday in March, on May the third, on the ſecond Wedneſday after Midſummer, on July 7, and 25, on the firſt Tueſday in September, and the firſt Wedneſday in October.

REM. LVI.

Barnſtaple, which is 184 computed, and 194 meaſured miles from London, is ſituate on the river Taw, about thirty miles north of Exeter. Its name is compounded of the Britiſh term Bar, which ſignifies the mouth of a river, and the Saxon word Staple, the meaning whereof is a mart of trade.

REM. LVII.

This place had formerly not only walls, but a caſtle, the liberties of a city, and a haven; but it became at laſt ſo ſhallow, tho' at ſpring-tides the adjacent fields are over-

overflowed, that moſt of the trade removed to Biddeford. It has ſtill, however, ſome merchants, and a good trade to America, as well as to Ireland; from whence it is an eſtabliſhed Port for landing wool; and it imports more wine and other merchandize than Biddiford, and is in all other reſpects equally conſiderable; for notwithſtanding its rival cures more fiſh, it does not carry on ſo great a trade with the ſerge-makers of Tiverton and Exeter, who come up hither to buy ſhad-fiſh, wool, yarn, &c.

REM. LVIII.

This town is pleaſantly ſituated among hills, in the form of a ſemi-circle, to which the river is a diameter, and has a fair ſtone bridge over it, conſiſting of ſixteen arches, together with a paper-mill. The ſtreets are clean and well paved, and the houſes principally built with ſtone.

REM. LIX.

'Tis a mayor-town, by charter from queen Mary, with twenty four common-council

council men, of whom two are aldermen, beſides a high ſteward, a recorder, his deputy, &c.

REM. LX.

It gives title to one of the four archdeaconries of the dioceſe of Exeter, and is remarkable for its fine ale.

REM. LXI.

It has two charity ſchools, one for fifty boys, and the other for thirty girls; and formerly here were ſeveral popiſh chantries, and other religious houſes. Queen Mary gave the manor to one Thomas Marrow of Warwickſhire, whoſe ſon ſold it to the Chicheſters, who are the preſent proprietors. It has ſent burgeſſes to parliament ever ſince the twenty-third of king Edward I.

REM. LXII.

Its markets are on Wedneſdays and Fridays, and its fairs on the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th, of September, all toll-free.

REM. LXIII.

Plympton, which is 180 computed, and 220 meaſured miles from London, is ſituate about five miles only from Plymouth, and lies on a ſtream but one mile from its influx into the river Plym, from whence it derives its name.

REM. LXIV.

This town was made a borough in the reign of king Edward III. by one Baldwin de Rivers, earl of Devon; and has the ruins of a caſtle, which was the ſeat of the antient earls of that name, who were barons of Plympton.

REM. LXV.

It was incorporated by queen Elizabeth, under a mayor, recorder, eight aldermen or principal burgeſſes, who are called common council men, a bailiff, a town-clerk, &c.

REM. LXVI.

It is called Plympton-Earl's, or Maurice (its church being dedicated to that ſaint) to diſtinguiſh it from Plympton Mary's, which is ſituate but at about half a miles diſtance from it. It is a populous town, notwithſtanding it chiefly conſiſts of two ſtreets only, and the buildings for the moſt part both old and ordinary.

REM. LXVII.

Here is a guild hall, ſupported by ſtone pillars, where the corn market is kept; and the beſt free-ſchool in all theſe parts, erected on ſtone pillars in the year 1664, by Sir John Maynard, one of the truſtees of Elizeus Hele, Eſq; of Cornwood, who gave 1500 l. per annum to ſuch charitable uſes.

REM. LXVIII.

It was given to the Rivers's earls of Devon, by king Henry I. and paſſed from them, with the earldom, by marriage, to the Courtneys, who held it as the manor of Okehampton; only one fourth part of it came to the Vivy-

ans by marriage, and another fourth to one Mr. Parker of Bevington. The remainder of it was veſted in the late John Pollixfen, nephew to the lord chief juſtice, who purchaſed it of one Chriſtopher Monk, duke of Albemarle, whoſe father bought it of the Heles.

REM. LXIX.

This borough began to ſend members to parliament in the twenty-third year of the reign of king Edward I. and it is alſo one of the ſtannary towns.

REM. LXX.

Its market is on Saturdays; and its ſeveral fairs on February 14, March 25, Holy-Thurſday, June 24, Auguſt 1, and October 18

REM. LXXI.

Plympton St. Mary's, which is ſituate juſt by the former, of which it was once the mother-church, had a college conſiſting of a dean and four prebendaries, founded by one of the Saxon kings; but they were diſplaced by

by one of the biſhops of Exeter, becauſe they would not part with their proſtitutes, whom they foſtered there; and a priory of canon-regulars was erected in their ſtead.

REM. LXXII.

Honiton, which is 126 computed, and 156 meaſured miles from London, is ſituate near the river Otter (over which it has a bridge) in the beſt and moſt pleaſant part of the county, which abounds with corn and paſture, and on which bridge is the moſt beautiful proſpect, perhaps, in all the world, which extends itſelf almoſt as far as Exeter, from which 'tis at leaſt twelve miles diſtant.

REM. LXXIII.

'Tis an antient borough by preſcription, and governed by a portreeve, who is elected annually, at the court of the lord of the manor.

REM. LXXIV.

'Tis a populous well-built town, having a channel of clear water running through its main ſtreet, with a dipping-place at every

door; and it is remarkable for its being paved with ſmall pebbles.

REM. LXXV.

As the pariſh-church is half a mile at leaſt from the town, and ſituate upon a hill, the gentry ride to it, either on horſeback, or in their coaches; for whoſe conveniency there are ſtables erected near the church-yard. There was formerly an old chapel in the town, but it being very ruinous, it was pulled down, and a new one was erected in its ſtead, in the year 1743.

REM. LXXVI.

Here was the firſt ſerge manufacture in all the county; but the inhabitants at preſent are principally employed in the manufacture of the broadeſt lace that is made in any part of the kingdom of England, of which great quantities are ſent to London.

REM. LXXVII.

A charity-ſchool for thirty boys was founded here in the year 1713, and about a quarter of a mile out of the town on the eaſt

ſide

ſide of the road to Exeter, there is an hoſpital for four lepers, which was founded and endowed by one Thomas Chard, an abbot, with an handſome chapel annexed to it. The governor and patients are put in by the rector, church-wardens and overſeers of the poor, and by a regulation in 1642, other poor patients are admitted as well as lepers.

REM. LXXVIII.

The manor antiently belonged to the earls of Devon, and is ſtill part of the eſtate of the Courtneys of Powderham caſtle, a younger branch of their family.

REM. LXXIX.

The liſt of members of parliament for this town begins in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of king Edward I. but the privilege of electing them was diſcontinued till it was reſtored in the ſixteenth year of the reign of king Charles I.

REM. LXXX.

A dreadful fire happened in this town on the 19th of July 1747, by which three parts of

of it were reduced to aſhes, and the damage was computed at 43000 l.

REM. LXXXI.

Its market formerly, brfore the reign of king John, was kept on Sunday; but afterwards it was changed to Saturday. It has but one fair, and that is kept on the 20th of July.

REM. LXXXII.

Taviſtock, which is 166 computed and 201 meaſured miles from London, is ſituate near the river Tamar, and is a very antient borough by preſcription. It never was incorporated, but is governed by a Portreeve, who is elected annually on Michaelmas day by twenty four freeholders at the court of the lord of the manor, now the duke of Bedford, to whom this town gives the title of marquis.

REM. LXXXIII.

It is one of the ſtannary towns, and is very ſpacious. The houſes are well built, and

and the church, which is a very handſome one, is covered with ſlate. Here are two alms houſes, and plenty of fiſh, which the inhabitants catch in the river Tave, whereon the town ſtands.

REM. LXXXIV.

In the year 691, king Edgar's ſon built a ſtately abbey here, (whoſe abbots were barons of parliament) where books were printed in the old Saxon language, (particularly a Saxon grammar in the late civil wars) and a ſchool was erected for teaching it. The ſite of this abbey, at the diſſolution of it, was given by king Henry VIII. together with the town and burgage, to one John Ruſſel, afterwards earl of Bedford, the duke's anceſtors. Among other remains ſtill to be ſeen, are part of the abutments of the arch of the guild-bridge over the Tave.

REM. LXXXV.

This town has enjoyed the privilege of ſending members to parliament ever ſince the

the reign of king Edward I. and they are returned by the portreeve.

REM. LXXXVI.

Its market is on Saturday, and its fairs on April 25, Auguſt 29, September 29, and November 30. It once had a fair on the 6th of January, but that is diſcontinued. St. Mark's day is a great fair for ſheep; and St. Andrew's for cattle and horſes.

REM. LXXXVII.

Aſhburton, which is 153 computed and 191 meaſured miles from London, is a great thoroughfare upon the London road, being about half way between Exeter and Plymouth.

REM. LXXXVIII.

It is an antient borough, by preſcription, and governed by a portreeve, who is annually elected at the court-leet and baron of Richard Duke and Roger Tuckfield, Eſq; lords of the manor; and this laſt is the returning officer of the members of parliament.

ment. The election, having been for many years diſcontinued, was reſtored by the intereſt of Sir John Northcote, of this county, Bart. ſoon after the reſtoration of king Charles II.

REM. LXXXIX.

This is one of the four ſtannary-towns, and is ſituate on the river Dart, among divers hills, which are remarkable for their mines of tin and copper. It is noted likewi'e for its manufacture of ſerge.

REM. XC.

Though the manor belonged antiently to the ſee of Exeter, yet 'tis ſuppoſed to have belonged to the crown, ever ſince the third year of the reign of king Henry IV. And it appears, that when king James I. created his ſon Charles prince of Wales, he gave him, together with other lands, this manor: king Charles II. however, gavd it to Sir Robert Parkhurſt, and the lord Sands, earl of Feverſham, who afterwards alienated it; the one having ſold his part to Sir John Stawell, whoſe ſon's executors ſold it again to the truſtees

truſtees of Roger Tuckfield, Eſq; the other being purchaſed by Richard Duke of Offerton, Eſq;

REM. XCI.

This town has a handſome church, more like a collegiate than a parochial one, and a chapel, which was antiently a chantry. The latter is uſed as a ſchool, as well as for pariſh meetings; and likewiſe for the election of its members of parliament.

REM. XCII.

Its markets are on Tueſdays and Saturdays; the former for wool and yarn only, which was procured by one Mr. Ford in the year 1672; the latter is for proviſions of all ſorts. Its fairs are on the firſt Thurſday in March, the ſecond Thurſday in June, Auguſt 10, and November 11. The two former were obtained by —— Stapleton, biſhop of Exeter, in the year 1273, and the two laſt by Andrew Quick, Eſq; about threeſcore years ago.

Dartmouth

REM. XCIII.

Dartmouth is a corporation town, formed out of Clifton, Dartmouth and Hardneſs, which were originally three diſtinct towns. 'Tis 165 computed, and 192 meaſured miles from London.

REM. XCIV.

The river Dart, which riſes in Dartmoor foreſt, runs into its harbour, from whence it derives its name. It was called Clifton, from the clifts or rocks, on which moſt of their houſes are erected, and out of which many of them were dug.

REM. XCV.

This town was burnt down to the ground in the reign of king Richard I. by the French, and a ſecond time in the reign of king Henry IV. After it had been rebuilt for ſome time, they attempted to reduce it to aſhes once more; but were bravely repulſed, and principally through the courage and conduct of its female inhabitants, who fought like ſo many Amazonian heroines, that beſides the

great ſlaughter which they made, they took Mr. Caſtel, the French general, three lords, and twenty-three knights priſoners.

REM. XCVI.

This town is governed by a mayor, twelve maſters or magiſtrates, twelve common council men, a recorder, two bailiffs, a town-clerk, and a high-ſteward; the three laſt are choſen by the mayor and magiſtrates, who have a power to make freemen. The mayor, bayliffs and governor are choſen yearly. Here is likewiſe a court of ſeſſion, and a water-bailiff-court, holden by a leaſe from the dutchy of Cornwall for three lives, for which they pay fourteen pounds a year chief-rent.

REM. XCVII.

The town, which is about a mile long, is ſituate on the ſide of a craggy hill. Its ſtreets are very irregular, being ſometimes two or three one above another; the houſes, however, are for the moſt part very high.

Five

REM. XCVIII.

Five hundred ſail of ſhips may ride in its harbour, which is defended by three caſtles, beſides forts and block-houſes; and its entrance may, upon occaſion, be ſhut up by a chain. Here is a large quay, and before it a ſpacious ſtreet, in which ſeveral conſiderable merchants reſide, who carry on a large trade to Portugal, Italy, Newfoundland, &c. and from the laſt to Italy, &c. with fiſh. Here is likewiſe the greateſt pilchard-fiſhery of any place in the weſtern county, Falmouth only excepted.

REM. XCIX.

The property of the manor is veſted in the corporation. Here are three churches, beſides a very ſpacious diſſenting meeting-houſe. The ſhipping and trade of this port and town, was the moſt conſiderable of any in the county, except Exeter, till the late increaſe of Plymouth in both.

REM. C.

It gave the title of baron to George Legg, formerly governor of Portſmouth, as it does at this preſent day of earl to his ſon William Legg.

REM. CI.

The freemen, who vote for its members of parliament, are in number ſeventy-eight, and the return is made by the mayor.

REM. CII.

This was firſt made a mayor and borough town by king John. King Edward III. granted that the burgeſſes ſhould be toll-free throughout England, &c.

REM. CIII.

King Richard II. in conſideration of the aid and aſſiſtance which the inhabitants of this town gave him, with reſpect to ammunition and proviſions in his war with France, enacted, that no Tin ſhould be exported from any other place.

King

REM. CIV.

King Edward IV. in order to reward the inhabitants for their courage againſt the French, tranſlated the port hither from Fowey, and gave them twenty pounds per annum in fee-farm; to which Richard III. and Henry VII. added twenty pound per annum more. The high rents belonging to this corporation amount to about ſeventy pounds per annum. It begun to ſend members to parliament in the twenty-ſixth year of the reign of king Edward I. but no more 'till the fourteenth of king Edward III.

REM. CV.

Notwithſtanding it has three churches (as before hinted) in the town; yet the mother-church is Tounſtall, which is ſituate on a hill, at three quarters of a mile diſtance at leaſt from the town: its tower is ſixty-nine feet high, and is a good ſea-mark. This town has a market, indeed, on Fridays, but no fairs.

REM. CVI.

Beeralſton, which is about 163 miles from London, and ſituate on the river Tave, tho' but a ſmall hamlet, is an antient borough by preſcription, under the government of a portreeve. The burgage-holders, who pay only three-pence per annum, or ſome other trivial acknowledgment for the land they hold by the borough, to the lord of the manor, are the only voters for its members, and the portreeve, who is choſen annually at his court, returns them.——It has a market on Thurſdays, but no fairs.

REM. CVII.

Tiverton, which is 136 computed, and 165 meaſured miles from London, was formerly called Twyford's-town, from two fords then over the Ex and the Leman, where are now ſtone bridges.

REM. CVIII.

It is an antient town, but peculiarly remarkable for the greateſt woollen manufacture in the county, Exeter itſelf excepted; and

and excepting that city likewiſe it is the richeſt if not the moſt populous of all the inland-towns throughout the county.

REM. CIX.

It is governed by a mayor, twelve principal-burgeſſes, twelve inferior, or aſſiſtant burgeſſes, a recorder, and a clerk of the peace. The mayor, by a charter granted by king James I. is jail-keeper, and the delivery thereof is to be holden before him and the recorder.

REM. CX.

Here is a noble large free-ſchool, which is a great ornament as well as advantage to the town, and was founded by one Mr. Peter Blondel, a clothier and a native, who gave 2000 l. for purchaſing lands to maintain ſix ſcholars at Oxford and Cambridge to be elected from this ſchool. They are at preſent eight, and placed at Baliol College, Oxford, and Sidney in Cambridge. And he left moreover, an allowance for an annual feaſt here to be kept on St. Peter's day, in his commemoration.

This

REM. CXI.

This town has ſuffered greatly by ſeveral fires, viz. on April 3, 1598, it being their market-day, a fire broke out, and ſpread with ſuch fury, that ſeveral of the inhabitants were burnt in the ſtreets and ſhops; together with 600 houſes; inſomuch that only the church and two almshouſes eſcaped. On the 5th of Auguſt 1612, another fire happened equally deſtructive, and the loſs was computed 35,000 l. and on the 5th of June 1731, there was another fire here which deſtroyed 200 of the beſt houſes, and moſt of the manufactures, to the loſs in the whole of 150,000 l. but it has been ſince elegantly rebuilt, and the church not being large enough, a chapel has been erected by voluntary ſubſcription of the inhabitants, which by parliament is made a perpetual curacy.

REM. CXII.

In the church was a chapel built by the earls of Devon, (who were the lords of the manor, and had two parks here) for their vaults

vaults or burial places, which are now, indeed, demoliſhed; but therein was a monument or tomb for Edward Courtney, earl of Devon and his counteſs, with the following remarkable inſcription, viz.

" Ho, ho, who lies here?
'Tis I, the good earl of Devonſhire.
With Kate my wife, to me full dear;
We liv'd together fifty-five year.
That we ſpent, we had;
That we left, we loſt;
That we gave, we have."

REM. CXIII.

The earls of Devon had a caſtle here, which, with the manor, came by marriage to the Trelawney's; but the latter has been ſince parted into ſo many ſhares, that it is almoſt impoſſible to give an account of them. A quarter of the manor of the borough was purchaſed by the father of the late Peter Weſt. It is to be noted, that the earls of Devon, of the Redvers-family, were lords of the manor before the Courtneys; and that the dowager of Baldwin, the

the laſt of the Redvers-family, in the reign of Edward I. certified her claim to a market here on Mondays and to the three fairs following, viz. July 7, September 1, and November 30.

REM. CXIV.

This town never ſent members to parliament till the eighteenth of James I. The late Sir Richard Vivian, bart. had ſome right in this borough. Its markets are kept on Tueſdays and Saturdays; and its fairs on the Tueſday fortnight after Whitſuntide, and the Tueſday fortnight after Michaelmas. Here is likewiſe a market on Mondays for kerſey's only.

N. B. Here ends the account of thoſe boroughs which ſend members to parliament, and the principal boroughs of thoſe which do not, are theſe that follow, viz.

REM. CXV.

Biddeford, alias Bediford, which is ſo called from its ſituation by the ford, is 161

computed, and 197 meaſured miles from London, and but thirty only from Exeter.

REM. CXVI.

It has a very fine bridge over the Towridge, which a little lower joins the Tave, and falls with it into Barnſtaple-bay. That bridge was built in the fourteenth century, on twenty-four beautiful and ſtately Gothic arches; but though the foundation is ſo firm, yet it ſeems to ſhake at the ſlighteſt ſtep of a horſe. There are lands ſettled for keeping it in repair, the rents of which are received, and laid out by a bridge-warden, choſe by the mayor and aldermen, who with a recorder, town-clerk, and ſerjeants, are the magiſtrates of the town.

REM. CXVII.

'Tis a clean, well-built populous place, and has a ſtreet near a mile long, fronting the river, with a noble quay, and cuſtom-houſe in it, where ſhips of very good burden load and unload in the very boſom of the town.

Here

REM. CXVIII.

Here is another good long ſtreet, as broad as the high-ſtreet of Exeter, inhabited by wealthy merchants, who ſend ſhips every year to the Weſt-Indies; but more particularly to Virginia, Newfoundland and Ireland; from whence it is an eſtabliſhed port for landing wool, and 'tis now a match for Barnſtaple, which was once by far ſuperior to it.

REM. CXIX.

Forty or fifty ſail of ſhips belonging to this port have been employed to fetch cod from Newfoundland, and others are ſent to Liverpool and Warrington for rock-ſalt, which is here diſſolved by the ſea-water into brine, and then boiled up into a new ſalt, which is juſtly called ſalt upon ſalt, and with this they cure their herrings.

REM. CXX.

The Granville's, of whom were the earls of Bath, have been lords of this town ever ſince

ſince the conqueſt; and it gave title of baron in the eleventh of queen Anne, to George, the late lord Lanſdown.

REM. CXXI.

There is a very handſome meeting-houſe here, beſides a large church, which are both much frequented. Its weekly market is on Thurſday.

REM. CXXII.

In this neighbourhood is Northam, which is a nurſery for mariners, with a good church, whoſe ſteeple is a ſea-mark for ſuch ſailors, as (in their own language) bear with the bar.

REM. CXXIII.

South-Moulton, which is 146 computed, and 183 meaſured miles from London (tho' but ſix from Biddiford, and thirty from Exeter) is ſituate on the river Moul.

REM. CXXIV.

This town (as well as North-Moulton) was antiently a royal demeſne, and was held

in the reign of Edward I. by William lord Martin, by ſerjeancy, to find a man with a bow and three arrows, to attend the earl of Glouceſter, when he went to Gower to hunt.

REM. CXXV.

In the reign of king Richard II. the manor came to the crown, for want of iſſue-male of the children of James Audley, to whom it had paſſed by marriage; and queen Elizabeth having alienated it, the burgeſſes of the town bought it, and they and the mayor are now lords of it, paying a fee-farm rent to the king.

REM. CXXVI.

This corporation, which once ſent members to parliament in the reign of king Edward I. conſiſts of a mayor, eighteen capital burgeſſes, a recorder, a town-clerk, and two ſerjeants at mace. The lord of the royalty either is, or lately was, one Mr. Hatch.

REM. CXXVII.

The chief manufactures of this town are ſerges, ſhalloons and felts; and great quantities

tities of wool, brought from the country, are bought up here every Saturday.

REM. CXXVIII.

In the year 1684, a merchant of London, a native of this town, built and endowed a free-ſchool here; beſides which here is a charity-ſchool. In this pariſh, moreover, there are certain lands called Brimridge, which were formerly the eſtate of judge Doderidge.

REM. CXXIX.

Its market is on Saturdays; and of them two in particular are very famous ones, viz. the Saturday before the 10th of April, and the Saturday before Michaelmas-day, which are plentifully ſupplied with all ſorts of cattle, wares and merchandize.

REM. CXXX.

Great Torrington, otherwiſe called Towridge-town, and, in old records, Chepan-Torrington, is 162 computed, and 192 meaſured miles from London. It has a bridge over the Towridge, and is an antient populous borough, from whence a great trade is carried on to Ireland, &c. eſpecially in ſtuffs.

REM. CXXXI.

'Tis governed by a mayor and aldermen, and ſixteen burgeſſes, purſuant to its charter of queen Mary I. The petty ſeſſions, and other public meetings are generally held here by the gentlemen of the county.

REM. CXXXII.

It has two churches; one with a library; and to one of the church-yards adjoins the manor-houſe, which, with the lands belonging to it, was ſettled on the parſon of the pariſh and his ſucceſſors, by king Henry the Eighth's mother, Margaret, counteſs of Richmond, who lived here, becauſe of the diſtance at that time between that church and the parſonage-houſe.

REM. CXXXIII.

Here are alms-houſes, with right of commonage for the poor, and a charity-ſchool for thirty-two boys.

This

REM. CXXXIV.

This town, from the Norman conqueſt to the reign of Edward I. was a barony in the Fitz-Robert's family; afterwards it gave title of earl to Monk, duke of Albemarle, who reſtored king Charles II. and to admiral Herbert, who brought over the prince of Orange, afterwards king William III. from Holland, who dying without iſſue, it firſt gave title of baron to Thomas Newport, one of the lords of the treaſury in the late reign, who alſo dying without iſſue, it then gave title of viſcount to the brave admiral Sir George Byng. It ſent burgeſſes to parliament in the reigns of Edward I. II. and III. but not ſince.

REM. CXXXV.

It has a good market for corn, fleſh, &c. on Saturdays; and its fairs are held on April 23 and 26, June 24, and September 29.

REM. CXXXVI.

Modbury is 170 computed, and 223 meaſured miles from London. It once ſent

members to parliament, viz. in the thirty-fourth year of the reign of king Edward I. but not ſince.

REM. CXXXVII.

The chief manor here was conveyed, in the reign of Edward II. by Sir James Okeſton, to Sir Richard Champernon.

REM. CXXXVIII.

It has a market on Thurſdays; and its fairs are on St. George's and St. James's day; it is peculiarly remarkable for the fine ale brewed here.

REM. CXXXIX.

Bradminch is 135 computed, and 177 meaſured miles from London. It ſtands on the river Collumb, in the road from Exeter to Wellington. 'Twas formerly known by the names of Bradneyſham and Braines.

REM. CXL.

'Tis a barony, which is a parcel of the dutchy of Cornwall, whoſe dukes were always ſtiled barons of Braines, and its mayor accounts

accounts every year for its privileges with the king's officers, or with the duke of Cornwall.

REM CXLI.

It antiently ſent two members to parliament, had a chantry, and, before its ruin by fire, a market on Saturdays; it has two fairs, however, viz. April 25 and September 21.

REM. CXLII.

Ilfordcomb, Ilfarcomb, or Alfrincomb, is 152 computed, and 178 meaſured miles from London. 'Tis a populous, rich, trading ſea-port, eſpecially with herrings in the Briſtol-channel, and peculiarly noted for maintaining conſtant lights to direct the ſailors; for its convenience of building and repairing ſhips; and for the ſafe ſhelter, which ſhips from Ireland find here, when it is extreamly dangerous for them to run into the Taw, which they call Barnſtaple-water; and this is the reaſon why the Barnſtaple merchants do ſo much of their buſineſs at this port.

The

REM. CXLIII.

The harbour, with its quay, warp houſe, light-houſe, pilot-boats and tow-boats, was formerly maintained at the expence of the anceſtors of Sir Bourchier Wrey, baronet, the lord of the manor; and at that time, it had a quay, or pier, 850 feet in length; but by time, and the violence of the ſea, all went to decay; for the remedy whereof, the parliament paſſed an act, in the year 1731, for both repairing and enlarging the piers, harbour, &c.

REM. CXLIV.

The town is governed by a mayor, bailiffs, &c. and conſiſts chiefly of one ſtreet of ſcattered houſes, about a mile in length. The pariſh is large, containing ſeveral tithings and manors; the chief of which was formerly the eſtate of the Champernons, and afterwards of Sir John Herle. Its market is on Saturdays, but it has no fairs.

N. B. Though this ends the account of the boroughs belonging to the county; yet, as there are divers places of note therein, which

which are not boroughs, we think it incumbent on us not to omit them.—And amongſt theſe are the following, viz.

REM. CXLV.

Kings-bridge is a pretty town, and pleaſantly ſituated with a harbour for boats, and is 170 computed, and 201 meaſured miles from London. 'Tis a chapel of eaſe to Cheſton, has a bridge over the Salcomb to Dodbrook, and formerly belonged to the earls of Devon, 'till, by the attainder of one of the family, it came to the crown, and was purchaſed by Sir William Petre, anceſtor of the preſent lord Petre.

REM. CXLVI.

Here is a market on Saturdays, and a fair on St. Peter's day, that is to ſay, on the 20th of July. Here is likewiſe a free-ſchool, founded and endowed by one Mr. Criſpin, of Exeter.

REM. CXLVII.

Dodbrook is ſituate on the river Salcomb, is 170 computed, and 198 meaſured miles from

from London. Here is a cuſtom of paying the parſon tythe of white ale, and a charity-ſchool. Its market is on Wedneſdays, and its fair (for it has but one) on the Wedneſday before Palm-Sunday.

REM. CXLVIII.

From this town the land runs out into a wide front, called by ſeamen the Start-point, and gathers in again to the mouth of the river Dart, which riſes in Dart-moor, a mountainous tract, twenty miles long, and fourteen broad, made into a foreſt by king John, where near 100,000 ſheep, beſides other cattle, feed all the ſummer long. The poor people in the parts adjacent, who come hither for turf for their winter fuel, are the moſt ignorant boors throughout the weſt of England.

REM. CXLIX.

Torbay is a village, twelve miles north of Dartmouth, with a bay in the Britiſh channel, about twelve miles in compaſs, where was the general ſtation of our fleets, during king William's war with France.

REM. CL.

It gave title of baron to admiral Herbert, when he was created earl of Torrington by king William, who, when prince of Orange, landed here on the 5th of November 1688, from the fleet which brought him from Holland, under that admiral's command.

REM. CLI.

This village was antiently the ſeat of the Bruers, and afterwards of the Wakes. Mary church here is reckoned the very firſt that was ever erected in this county. Near this bay is a very remarkable well; but of that we have taken notice before in the preceding dialogue.

REM. CLII.

Croken-Torr, is a noted hill and rock in the foreſt of Dart-moor, where the Tinners of this county are obliged, by their charters, to aſſemble their parliamants, or courts of ſtannary, of which the lord-warden is judge, and he ſummons the jurors, who are, for the generality, perſons within the juriſdiction,

tion, to this deſolate place; which being quite expoſed to the weather, with no ſeat but a moor-ſtone bench, and no refreſhment but what the company bring with them, who are ſometimes two or three hundred gentlemen well mounted, the ſteward immediately adjourns the court to Taviſtock, or ſome other ſtannary-town. Heretofore, when the Tin-mines of this county were in a more flouriſhing ſtate and condition than they are at preſent, a great deal of buſineſs was diſpatched, and the preſentments of the jurors were printed, which were commonly ſtiled Acts of Parliament; as their place of their meeting was called the Parliament-Houſe.

REM. CLIII.

Chudleigh, or Chidleigh, near the river Teign, is 146 computed, and 182 meaſured miles from London, and peculiarly noted for giving title of baron to the noble family of Clifford, ever ſince the reign of king Charles the ſecond.

REM. CLIV.

The biſhops of Exeter had a ſumptuous ſeat here before the reformation, it being built

built by one of them in the reign of king Edward III. as his will ſays, "That his ſucceſſors might have a place to lay their heads in, if the king ſhould ſeize the temporalities." During their reſidence here, they purchaſed it a market on Saturdays, and the four following fairs, viz. Thoſe on Eaſter-Monday, Tueſday and Wedneſday; and thoſe of St. Barnabas and St. Martin.

REM. CLV.

Crediton, vulgarly called Kirton, is ſituate on the river Creden, and is 147 computed, and 183 meaſured miles from London. In the time of the Saxons, it was the ſee of a biſhop, which, though afterwards tranſlated to Exeter, the cathedral is ſtill ſtanding.

REM. CLVI.

Here is a meadow called my Lord's meadow; and here was born Boniface, archbiſhop of Mentz, commonly called the German apoſtle; becauſe he converted the Heſſians, &c. in Germany to the chriſtian faith.

REM. CLVII.

Its principal manufacture is ſerge, in which it drove a great trade, and was a flouriſhing town till the 14th of Auguſt 1743, when above 460 houſes were burnt down, beſides the market-houſe, wool-chambers, and other public buildings; inſomuch that the loſs in goods, and ſtock in trade, was computed at near 3000 l. and the loſs in houſes and goods not inſured, at or near 50,000 l.

REM. CLVIII.

Here was once a college and a chapel, dedicated to St. Lawrence, but it has long ſince lain in ruins, being alienated, together with the biſhop's palace, to the family of the Killigrews. Here is a charity-ſchool, which has been long ſubſiſting. In the reign of Edward I. it ſent members to a parliament at Carliſle. Here is a market on Saturdays, and a fair on St. Lawrence's day.

REM. CLIX.

Columbton, which is 134 computed, and 166 meaſured miles from London, is the beſt

beſt town on the river Columb, or Culme, from whence it derives its name.

REM. CLX.

The church here has a curious rich, gilded, rood-loft, which is to this day preſerved as an ornament, notwithſtanding the image, which was worſhipped in the days of popery, is removed. Here were alſo divers chantries.

REM. CLXI.

The manor belonged formerly to the abbey of Buckland in this county; but after the reformation, to Sir John St. Leger, who ſold it to T. Riſden, Eſq.

REM. CLXII.

The woollen is its principal manufacture. It has a market on Saturdays, and a fair only on May-day. There are ſeveral other towns on the river Columb, which take their reſpective names from it; namely, Columb-Davids, Uff-Columb, Columbſtock, &c. The firſt of which is a market-town full of manufacturers, whoſe principal dependance is on their ſeveral maſters at Tiverton.

REM. CLXIII.

Topſham, which is the port of Exeter, and only at about three miles diſtant from it, is 139 computed, and 175 meaſured miles from London.

REM. CLXIV.

'Tis almoſt encompaſſed with the rivulets, cliffs and Ex, and has a market on Thurſdays, and a fair on St. Margarets, and the days before and after, procured in the reign of king Henry VIII. by one of the Courtneys, earls of Devon, who were lords of the manor, and made it a flouriſhing town for a long time, by ſtopping the navigation of the river Ex with weirs; inſomuch that all goods were wont to be carried from the ſhips to Exeter by land; but about forty years ago, the citizens, by the aid and aſſiſtance of an act of parliament, finiſhed a work that had been begun above 100 years before, and cut ſuch a channel through the dams, that by the contrivance of ſluices and gates, veſſels of 150 tons now go up to the quay.

The

REM. CLXV.

The walk or ride from Exeter hither, which is but about three miles diſtant, as we have before hinted, is ſo very delightful, that it brings almoſt as many people hither for pleaſure as for buſineſs.

REM. CLXVI.

Axmiſter, or Axminſter, which is ſituate on the very borders of Somerſetſhire, and the county of Dorſet, is 119 computed, and 146 meaſured miles from London.

REM. CLXVII.

'Tis a clean, healthy, conſiderable town, and derives one part of its name from the river Axe, whereon it ſtands, and the other from a minſter, erected here by king Athelſtan, for ſeven prieſts to pray for the departed ſouls of ſome perſons buried here, who were killed in his army, when he defeated the Danes, at the bloody battle in an adjacent field, which to this day is called King's-field.

REM. CLXVIII.

This town drives a ſmall trade in Kerſeys, druggets, and other articles of the woollen manufacture; and 'tis well ſupplied with fiſh from Lyme, Axmouth, and other coaſt-towns within its neighbourhood.

REM. CLXIX.

Its market is on Saturdays; and its fairs on April 25, Midſummer-day, and the Monday after Michaelmas.

REM. CLXX.

King John gave this manor to the lord William Brewer, (by whoſe intereſt the market and Midſummer fair above-mentioned was procured) and from him it deſcended by an heireſs, to the lord Mohun of Dunſter, who gave it to the abbey which he had erected at Newenham, in the county of Glouceſter.

REM. CLXXI.

This hundred had the honour, on May the 24th 1650, of giving birth to the ever victorious

victorious John duke of MARLBOROUGH, at Aſh, in the pariſh of Mosbury, the ſeat of his father Sir Winſtal Churchill.

REM. CLXXII.

Hartland, which is 171 computed, and 197 meaſured miles from London, ſtands on the promontory called Hartland-point, which is the extreme part of the county north-weſt, and runs out a good way into the ſea.

REM. CLXXIII.

In the reign of king William the Conqueror, this manor belonged to the Dinants, or Dinhams, from whom it deſcended by marriage to the Zouches, and from them ſucceſſively to the Fitzwarrens, Carews, and Arundels; and it had formerly a convent. In the reign of queen Elizabeth a bill was preferred in parliament for making a port here.

REM. CLXXIV.

The market is on Saturdays, and is much frequented by people from Cornwall; and as the fiſhing-boats of Barnſtaple and Biddiford, and the other towns on the coaſt, lie often under

uuder theſe rocks for ſhelter from the ſouth-weſt or ſouth eaſt winds, the ſeamen come on ſhore here, and ſupply themſelves with proviſions. Nor is the town, 'tis manifeſt, unconcerned in that gainful trade the herring fiſhery; for Clovelly, which lies on the ſame ſhore to the eaſt, the ſeat of the antient family of the Caryes, is remarkable for the greateſt herring fiſhery on the coaſt, above 400 horſes being ſometimes laden with them in a day, to the value of above 1500 l. in a ſeaſon. Here is alſo taken the beſt cod in the world, though not in ſuch quantities as on the banks of Newfoundland. The fairs of Hartland are kept on Eaſter-Wedneſday, Whitſun-Tueſday, and on the 14th of September.

REM. CLXXV.

Chimley, which is 148 computed, and 184 meaſured miles from London, is ſituate on the river Taw, near the midway from Exeter to Barnſtaple. It has a market on Thurſdays, and one fair only on the 22d of July.

There

REM. CLXXVI.

There is a tradition here, that ſeven prebends were founded in this place by the lady of the manor, in commemoration of ſeven children, which ſhe brought up, after taking them from the father, who ſaid he had too many, and was carrying them in a basket, in order to drown them.

REM. CLXXVII.

Comb-Martin, or Martin's-comb, ſituate on the Briſtol channel, which is 149 computed, and 184 meaſured miles from London, was, for ſome conſiderable time, the lordſhip of the Martins, deſcended from Martin of Tours, a Norman lord, who had great poſſeſſions here in the reign of king Henry I. from whom, in part, it derives its name, and its other part from the Britiſh term Kum, which ſignifies a low ſituation.

REM. CLXXVIII.

Here is a cove for the landing of boats. The adjacent ſoil not only produces plenty of the beſt hemp in the county, but has been famous

famous for mines both of Tin and Lead; the latter of which being found in the reign of king Edward I. to have ſome veins of ſilver, 337 men were brought from Derbyſhire to work them. But of theſe we ſhall ſay no more here, having taken ſufficient notice of them before in the preceding dialogue.

REM. CLXXIX.

This manor deſcended from the Martins to the lords Audley, from whom, for want of iſſue-male, it reverted to the crown; and king Henry VIII. gave it to Sir Richard Pollard, the ſon of judge Pollard, whoſe poſterity ſold it to the Hancocks, who procured it a market on Tueſdays, and a fair on Whitſun-Monday.

REM. CLXXX.

Lundy-Iſland, though fifty miles in the ſea, off the north-weſt coaſt of Devonſhire, has ſeveral ſprings of freſh water: however, as we have made our remarks on this iſland already in the preceding dialogue, we ſhall, to avoid any needleſs repetition, only obſerve here; that in the reign of king Edward III. this iſland belonged to the Lutterels, and of late

late to the Greenvills. In the reign of king Henry VIII. one William Moriſco, who had conſpired to murder him at Woodſtock, fled to this iſland, which he fortified, turned pirate, and did very conſiderable damages to the adjacent coaſts; at length, however, he was taken by ſurpriſe, with ſixteen accomplices, who were all executed accordingly, as they very juſtly deſerved.

REM. CLXXXI.

The principal ſeats in this county lie on or about Halldown, which is a dry heath, about ſeven miles in length, and three in breadth; which, notwithſtanding it is a flinty, barren ſoil, is a moſt delightful ſituation, together with a moſt charming proſpect both by ſea and land; ſo that, unleſs it be in or about London, there are not ſo many gentlemens ſeats within that compaſs of ground, as lie round the skirts of this common; (that is to ſay) the lord Clifford's at Ugbrook; Sir William Courtnay's at Powderham-caſtle; Sir Thomas Chudleigh's at Hallden; the late biſhop of Exeter's at Dawliſh;

liſh; the late Stephen Northleigh's, Eſq; at Peamore; Mr. Helyar's at Canons-Tring; Mr. Savery's at Trehall; Mr. Balle's at Maurhead; Mr. Woolcomb's at Place; Mr. Yard's at Whiteway; Mr. Langdon's at Park-place; Mr. Geare's at Holloway; Mr. Shepherd's at Bell-Marſh; Mr. Davenport's at Burrough; lord Walpole's at Hynton; a conſiderable way farther to the weſt, near Hatherlay; and Mr. Champney's near Barnſtaple.

REM. CLXXXII.

The antient places in this county are theſe that follow, viz. 1. The Iſca, mentioned by Ptolemy. This is ſo plainly conveyed to us by the preſent river Ex, called by the Britons Iſc, that there is no room to doubt but this is the ſame river. 2d. Iſca Danmoniorum is our Exeter. 3d. Moridunum, though this, indeed, has left nothing of the name; yet it ſeems to have its meaning preſerved in a ſea-coaſt town, called at this day Seton: for Mor is Mare, i. e. the ſea, and Dunum a town. 4thly and laſtly, Herculis Promontorium. This is with eaſe diſcovered by the preſent

name

name Herty-point; for which no tolerable reaſon can be aſſigned, unleſs we allow it to be a corruption of that hero's or demi-god's name.

REM. CLXXXIII.

The moſt remarkable incidents that have occurred from time to time in this county are as follow, viz. 1ſt. At Withicombe, in a ſtorm of thunder and lightning (in the fourteenth year of the reign of Charles I.) a ball of fire fell down upon the church, during divine ſervice, which actually killed three perſons, and wounded ſixty-two others, and did other damage beſides, to the value of 300 l. and upwards.

2dly, A ſtorm much of the ſame nature happened, in the year 1689, at Crews-Morthard in this county, which melted the bells, lead and glaſs; and was ſo violent that it rent the ſteeple.

3dly, 'Tis obſervable, that the organ, in the cathedral at Exeter, is the biggeſt that was ever made in England; the largeſt pipe being no leſs than fifteen inches diameter.

4thly and laſtly, There is a pit of ten

feet deep, out of which there ſometimes ſprings up a little brook, which, by the ſuperſtitious populace, has been thought to preſage ſome national calamity; but what grounds there are for ſuch notions, we ſhall not preſume to determine.

THE

THE
Natural Beauties
OF
DORSETSHIRE.

DIALOGUE III.

BETWEEN

TUTOR and PUPIL.

PUPIL.

AS the natives of Cornwall and Devonſhire were called by the antient Romans Dunmonii; by what name or title did they diſtinguiſh the inhabitants of this county?

TUTOR.

By the appellation of the Durotroges; and the Greeks likewiſe diſtinguiſhed them by the very ſame name, as evidently appears from Ptolomy's geographical tables.

P. How were they ſtiled by the antient Britons?

T. They were called (according to Aſſerius Meſſevenenſis, who was a Briton himſelf, and flouriſhed about the year of our lord 890) Dwr-Gwyr.

P. What, pray, is the true ſenſe and ſignification of thoſe two terms Durotroges and Dwr-Gwyr.

T. The explication of both is exactly the ſame; for the former is a compound word, and derived from the term Dour, or Dwr, which in the Britiſh language ſignifies water, and Trig and Gwyr an inhabitant; ſo that they may with propiety be ſaid to be dwellers on the ſea-coaſt. The Saxons indeed, called them Dwr-ſetta, but that bears the ſelf ſame meaning as the other wo.

T. What is the extent of this county?

T. From eaſt to weſt it is about ſixty five miles, and in breadth from north to ſouth about thirty three, which makes the extent

extent in the whole, above 772,000 acres of land.

P. How is this county bounded?

T. On the North by Somerſetſhire and Wiltſhire, on the weſt by Devonſhire, on the eaſt by Hampſhire, and ſouthward (on which ſide it is of the largeſt extent) it is all ſea-coaſt.

P. Are there not ſeveral very important advantages ariſing from thence?

T. Yes, doubtleſs; for by that means, the whole county are ſupplied with a profuſion of the beſt fiſh, and the inhabitants have all the opportunies imaginable of improving their trade and commerce.

P. What was king Charles II. pleaſed to ſay in favour of this county?

T. That he never ſaw, during all his travels, a finer ſpot of ground either in the kingdom of England, or any where out of it.

P. How is the air of this county?

T. For the generality very good, and perfectly wholſome; on the hills, indeed, 'tis ſharp and bleak enough, but very moderate and extremely pleaſant near the coaſt.

P. How is the ſoil of it?

T. Not-

T. Notwithſtanding it is exceſſively ſandy, yet for the moſt part, it is very fruitful.

P. Which are the moſt deficient parts?

T. The northern and eaſtern, but even they yield a very conſiderably ſtore both of wood and paſture.

P. Which are the principal rivers?

T. The Stour, the Frome, the Piddle, the Lyddon, the Dereliſh, and the Allen, &c. but beſides theſe, there are a great number of rivulets and brooks which diſcharge their waters into them.

P. What are thoſe rivers peculiarly remarkable for?

T. All of them in general, indeed, yield a profuſion of fiſh, but the Stour in particular, not only affords a prodigious quantity of tench and eels, but then they are principally valued for their intrinſic goodneſs and moſt delicious flavour.

P. From whence does the Stour take its riſe?

T. Tho' it muſt be acknowledged, that its ſource or fountain-head lies in the county of Somerſet; yet its waters ſoon enter this, and run due ſouth to a town called Sturminſter, where, making an angle, it forms a courſe near weſt-ſouth-weſt, and leaves

Dor-

Dorſetſhire about five miles below Winborn; but ſoon after that, they diſcharge themſelves into the ſea, at Chriſt Church in Hampſhire.

P. From whence does the Frome take its riſe?

T. In the eaſtern end of this county, and for the moſt part runs weſtward to Wareham, a little below which, it empties its waters into the bay, called pool-harbour.

P. With what are the downs and hills of this county principally covered?

T. With great flocks of large ſheep, whoſe fleſh is very delicate and ſweet, and wool ſo fine, that it is much coveted by the clothiers, and by that means proves a golden fleece both to buyer and ſeller, and the valleys abound with other cattle. Butter is made here in its utmoſt perfection; the husbandman in this county reaps an ample reward for all his induſtry and toil; for all his grounds produce either a vaſt plenty of corn, flax, or hemp, which laſt commodity in particular is univerſally allowed to be better in this county than in any other throughout the whole kingdom of England;

England; ſo that 'tis no wonder that the inhabitants of this county deal ſo largely both in linen and woollen. Here are likewiſe a profuſion of all ſorts of fowls and birds both for profit and pleaſure; in a word, there is no want here of any one thing that is requiſite for the maintainance and ſupport of the inhabitants, and what adds to the pleaſure of it, all thoſe various kinds of proviſions may be purchaſed at very reaſonable rates. This county moreover is peculiarly remarkable for the fine beer and ale that are brewed here, which are ſo much admired by ſome gentlemen, that they prefer them to the beſt wines in France.

P. What are the natural conſequences that ariſe from all theſe valuable conveniencies?

T. Great numbers of people make this part of England their favourite place of abode, and thoſe too, perſons of the higheſt rank and diſtinction; ſo that, notwithſtanding the capital city of this county is upwards of an 100 miles diſtance from London, the inhabitants of the former are in all reſpects as polite and gay as thoſe of the latter.

P. What

P. What have you more remarkable than ordinary on the ſea-coaſt?

T. At the entrance into this county from Devonſhire, ſtands a little town called Lime Regis, or Kings Lime, which is divided into two parts by a ſmall river that is extremely commodious, notwithſtanding it is ſomewhat difficult of acceſs, indeed, on account of its being ſituated on a high ſteep rock; and about a century ago it could ſcarcely be termed a ſea-port, yet it was even in thoſe days frequented by a great number of fiſhermen, and was peculiarly remarkable for the ſalt-pans which at that time were uſed for boiling the ſea-water. However, of late years, its harbour, called the Cobbe, has been ſo greatly improved, at the expence of ſeveral eminent and ſubſtantial merchants, and is ſo well ſecured againſt tempeſtuous weather, not only by the rocks, but a great number of lofty trees, that ſome people are of opinion, there is not a more commodious harbour to be met with in all his majeſties dominions. Tho' the town, it muſt be allowed, is very ſmall; yet, at this preſent juncture, 'tis the ſeat of an exceeding good

trade;

trade; but when that branch of it in particular flouriſhed, called the New-found-land trade, the cuſtoms at that time produced, for many years ſucceſſively, very little leſs than 16,000 l. per ann.

P. For what is Brid-port, otherwiſe called Burt-port, and Birt-port, peculiarly remarkable?

T. Its ſoil is ſo particular, that it yields hemp to a much greater perfection than in any other county; nay, we may add, than in any other county throughout the kingdom of England. And as a demonſtration of the truth of it, this town, tho' in all other reſpects inconſiderable enough, was heretofore ſo famous for making ropes and cables for ſhips, that it was provided by a ſpecial law, which was appointed to continue for a ſtated time, that ſuch tackle as ſhould be appropriated to the ſervice of the Engliſh navy, ſhould be made no where elſe; and the ſtaple trade of the town at this very day conſiſts in making the largeſt ſeans and nets of all kinds uſed in the Britiſh fiſhery. This place likewiſe is peculiarly noted for the mackarel which are catched here, in the proper ſeaſon by the fiſhermen, in ſuch prodigious numbers, that proper watches have

have been ſet to prevent the farmers in the parts adjacent from making uſe of them as manure, which, as they imagine, may poſſibly infect the air, and by conſequence prove fatal, not only to themſelves, but to all their neighbours round about them.

P. What have you particularly remarkable in the parts adjacent to Wingford-Eagle?

T. In a ground near that place, called Fern-down, there is a barrow, which ſome few years ago was opened and ſearched. On the firſt removal of the earth, the workmen found it full of large flints, but at laſt, in the proſecution of their work, they came to a place in every reſpect like an oven, which had been clayed all round in a very artful manner, wherein they found a great variety of urns moſt exquiſitely wrought; but the circumſtance which we imagine moſt pertinent to our preſent purpoſe, and moſt worthy the attention of the curious is this; namely, that when one of the labourers put his hand into the oven, as ſoon as it was diſcovered, he was obliged to draw it back directly, being incapable of enduring the heat thereof; and ſeveral others after him making the ſame attempt for the gratification of their curioſity,

curioſity, peremptorily aſſerted, that it was hot enough in reaſon for the baking of a batch of bread. Not far from this ground, called Fern-down, in an incloſure, ſtand nine ſtones in a circular form; and about half a mile further three more, which likewiſe demand the attention of the curious. They are all of different ſizes, but the higheſt is ſeven feet or thereabouts; each of which is by moſt people imagined to be a lump of flint.

P. What is there farther remarkable on Bridport ſhore?

T. The bank of gravel and pebbles, which are thrown up there, and called the Cheſil, with a narrow ſea between that and the ſhore. This bank continues for ſeven or eight miles together, by which ſhelf of ſand, Portland, which was formerly an iſland, is now joined to the continent.

P. What is the etymology, pray, of that peninſula?

T. Cambden ſeems ſomewhat dubious in that particular: ſome, however (ſays he) imagine that it is called Portland, from its being directly over-againſt the port called Weymouth: but the moſt probable conjecture,

in

in his opinion, is, that it derives its name from one Port, who was a gallant Saxon, and greatly annoyed this coaſt, about the year of our lord 523, and took poſſeſſion of this commodious ſpot of ground as an aſylum, or retreat, for himſelf and his fellow pirates.

P. Of what circumference is that peninſula?

T. Notwithſtanding the place is ſmall, thinly inhabited, and not above ten miles round; yet it affords a profuſion of corn, and very commodious paſture for ſheep; wood and coal, however, are ſuch ſcarce commodities there, that the inhabitants are obliged to make uſe of cow-dung dried in the ſun for fuel.

P. Of what profeſſion are the inhabitants for the moſt part, and in what do they particularly excel their neighbours?

T. For the generality they are ſtone-cutters, and, like the antient Baleares, in the Mediterranean Sea, were formerly the beſt ſlingers throughout the kingdom of England; and moreover, their road, called Portland-road, affords a very commodious harbour for ſhips in tempeſtuous weather. 'Tis very dangerous, however, to paſs over their race, (where the two tides meet with very violent

ſurges of the waves) notwithſtanding the weather prove ever ſo calm.

P. What is the principal commodity of this peninſula?

T. Our beſt and whiteſt free-ſtone comes all from thence: with this, not only the cathedral of St. Paul; but the monument likewiſe, and all the moſt magnificent edifices in the city of London are principally built.

P. Is there nothing beſides worthy the obſervation of the curious?

T. Yes; not only the quarries from whence thoſe ſtones are dug; but the various ſhells of oyſters, cockles, muſcles, &c. which are to be met with there in abundance. Thoſe, however, which are commonly called ſcrews, and to be found every where in this ſtone, are of a ſize and form beyond any thing that is to be met with in any other part of the Britiſh dominions.

P. Are theſe ſpiral ſhells, or ſcrews, as you call them, taken out of the ſtone, without any difficulty attending the operation?

T. No; they are very ſeldom to be extracted whole.

P. Why ſo?

T. Becauſe

T. Becauſe they are very brittle, as they are of the ſame ſubſtance, and moſt commonly break in the extraction.

P. Are theſe ſcrews ſolid or hollow?

T. Perfectly ſolid, and are ſo nicely coiled or twiſted about an imaginary axis, that they form a bore as equal and regular, as that of a capillary glaſs tube.

P. Are there, in this iſland, no other ſtones, but the white free-ſtones you juſt mentioned?

T. Yes; in ſome quarries, particularly thoſe that lie on the ſouth-weſt part, there are found ſtones which may, with very good reaſon, be termed ſugar-candy ſtones; ſome whereof are pale, indeed; but others brown; and it muſt be acknowledged, that they ſo nearly reſemble ſugar-candy in the lump, that any one may with eaſe be impoſed upon by them, till he is fully convinced both by his tongue and teeth.

P. Pray, what may thoſe ſugar-candy ſtones, as you call them, be?

T. Nothing more than an inſipid exudation of juices, which are petrified, chryſtalized, and candied up by nature, in the manner and colour deſcribed.

P. Is the land there high or low?

T. So high, that when the weather is clear and ſerene, one may ſee above half way over the channel to France, notwithſtanding 'tis very broad here.

P. As you have given me a ſufficient account of the peninſula, pray oblige me with your obſervations on that part thereof which is commonly called its Race?

T. The ſea off this peninſula, but more eſpecially to the weſt of it, is looked upon to be the moſt dangerous part of the Britiſh channel; for due ſouth there is almoſt one continued diſturbance of the waters, on account of the two tides which meet there.

P. What do you mean by the two tides there?

T. Nothing more than the ſets of the currents from the French coaſt and the Engliſh ſhore.

P. Wherein, pray, does the danger of this Race principally lie?

T. Too many ſhips, not fully apprized of theſe currents, have frequently been embayed to the weſt of the peninſula, and have been driven aſhore upon the riff of beach there, where they have been abſolutely loſt.

P. Have there not been proper meaſures taken to prevent theſe fatal accidents?

T. Yes;

T. Yes; in order to direct ſuch mariners as are too little on their guard, there has been for ſome conſiderable time a light-houſe erected on each point of that peninſula, which are, doubtleſs, of ſingular ſervice, and, in a great meaſure, anſwer the end propoſed.

P. Is there any thing remarkable to be ſeen near this light-houſe?

T. Yes; ſomething very ſurpriſing; for on the ſouth ſide of the peninſula there is ſuch a prodigious hole, very viſible through the earth, and wide at top, though contracting, indeed, about ſeven or eight feet downwards, that it opens into a large ſubterranean cavern, where the waters of the ſea are to be clearly ſeen; which, in tempeſtuous weather, preſent both the eye and the ear with tremendous ſenſations.

P. How large may that cavern be?

T. Of that extent, thet ſome of the ſmall craft have been driven within it, though their ſails have been up, and plainly ſeen through the hole.

P. As you mentioned juſt before a dangerous riff of beach, where ſhips were frequently loſt, pray oblige me with ſome account of it?

T. Notwithſtanding Portland ſtands at leaſt a whole league from the main-land of Britain; yet it is almoſt joined thereto by that riff of beach; that is to ſay, of ſmall ſtones caſt up by the ſea, which runs from the peninſula ſo near the Engliſh ſhore, that people ferry over with a boat and a rope; the water being very little more than half a ſtone's throw over.

P. How far, pray, may that riff of beach extend?

T. From that inlet of water, it turns away weſt, and runs parallel with the ſhore, as far as Abbotsbury, which is no leſs than ſeven miles beyond Weymouth.

P. How is that ſmall ferry, or inlet of water, which you ſpeak of, ſituate?

T. On the inſide of the above-mentioned beach, and between that and the land.

P. Where does it open?

T. At about two miles weſt, where it grows broad, and makes a kind of lake, within the land, of about a mile and an half broad, and near three miles long.

P. Is there any thing worthy of the attention of the curious in that lake?

T. Yes; at the farther end of it, there is a large decoy; and on the verge of the water,

water, there are proper groves and trees for the commodious ſhelter of the fowl. In the broad part of it, there is, moreover, the largeſt ſwannery throughout Great-Britain; in which open part of the lake, thoſe fowl live, feed and breed; and the number of them is ſo great, that ſometimes 7 or 8000 of them are ſeen in a flock together, and great numbers of them likewiſe are frequently ſeen on the wing, and that too very high in the air.

P. What would you infer from thence?

T. That thoſe birds fly over the riff of beach before mentioned, which ſeparates the lake from the ſea, in order to find out ſome agreeable proviſions on the ſhores.

P. Is there not another iſland not far diſtant from Portland?

T. Yes; that of Purbeck, which was formerly full of heath, woods and foreſts; and plentifully ſtored with fallow-deer and ſtags; and notwithſtanding it muſt be allowed, that it is not ſo ſtocked at preſent; yet towards the ſouthern part of it, the land is very good; and beſides, there are here and there, underground, not only veins of marble, but ſuch a quantity of various ſorts of good and ſubſtantial ſtones, that the cathedral church of

Salisbury

Salisbury was wholly erected therewith; and great quantities of it, moreover, are frequently conveyed from thence to London, to the no ſmall emolument and advantage of the inhabitants, who are daily employed in the quarries where they are found.

P. Though you call this place an iſland, is there not as juſt a reaſon foe calling it a peninſula as that of Portland?

T. Doubtleſs there is; for there is a good paſſage through into it, without croſſing any water at all.

P. What is the circumference of it?

T. It is ten miles long, indeed; but very little more than five or ſix broad.

P. How is it bounded?

T. On the ſouth and eaſt with the Britiſh ſea; on the north with the river Frome; and on the weſt with a mooriſh lake, which runs into the Frome, and is commonly called Luxford-lake.

P. How is the ſoil of this peninſula?

T. Though at the firſt entrance into it the ground is both heathy and barren; yet it is well ſtocked with red deer. The other grounds, however, which are parted from the former, with almoſt one continued ridge of very high hills, are of a much better nature,

ture, and afford extraordinary paſture, not only for ſheep, but food for other cattle, and a profuſion of good corn. In ſome parts of it likewiſe large quarries are to be met with of ſolid ſubſtantial ſtone, and here and there mines of blue and parti-coloured marble.

P. Is there nothing farther remarkable near this peninſula?

T. Yes; the bank of the ſea towards the eaſt of it, winds very much inward, and finding a narrow inlet or paſſage, widens itſelf into a bay of great breadth. And to the north of it, in another peninſula, not far diſtant from it, is a fine ſea-port town called Poole, which is ſurrounded every way with water, to the north only excepted, where it joins to the continent.

P. From whence did that ſea-port derive its name?

T. In all probability from the bay below it, which, when the weather is perfectly ſerene, looks juſt like a ſtanding pool.

P. For what is that ſea-port peculiarly remarkable?

T. As there is not a ſufficient depth of water at Wareham, this town, through the great reſort of ſhips thither, is become, not only the moſt conſiderable town in the whole

county,

county, but in all that part of England. For the generality there are a great number of ſhips riding at anchor there; but what is ſtill more worthy of notice is, that there are a great number of veſſels likewiſe, which are annually fitted out to the Newfoundland fiſhery.

P. What is there remarkable in regard to the bay you juſt mentioned?

T. Why this; that a little below Wareham, it receives the waters of the two principal rivers of the county, namely the Frome and the Piddle.

P. Is there any thing worthy of attention in Luxford-lake?

T. Yes; in the arm of the ſea there, the tide ebbs and flows four times in four and twenty hours. This place is, moreover, very remarkable for its profuſion of makarel in the uſual ſeaſon, and great plenty likewiſe of other good fiſh, wherewith it ſupplies all the inland parts of the county of Somerſet; but 'tis ſtill more peculiarly noted for the fineſt oyſters in all this part of England, which are looked upon to be far preferable to any others in regard to pickling. It is very obſervable likewiſe, that theſe oyſters have more pearl in them, and are larger than

any

any others that are to be met with throughout the whole kingdom. They are barrelled up in large quantities; and not only ſent from hence to London, but to Spain, Italy, &c. and even to the Weſt-Indies.

P. Are there any other commodities exported from this place?

T. Yes; not only great quantities of corn and pulſe, but of Purbeck ſtone likewiſe.

P. What, pray, was the remarkable occurrence that happened at this place in the year 1653?

T. We are credibly informed that a ſhower of blood fell down in this town, on the 20th of June in that year, from a black cloud, which tinged all the leaves of the Trees thereabouts with red; ſeveral of which were ſent to London and divers other places, and were at that time looked upon, by ſuch as were Virtuoſi, as very valuable curioſities.

P. Was not that extraordinary occurrence looked upon as ominous?

T. Yes; by the common people, and abſolutely declared a manifeſt indication of ſome impending judgment.

P. Did any dreadful calamity befal the kingdom of England about that time according to their apprehenſions?

T. No;

T. No; their ſurmiſes were all idle and groundleſs; but on the contrary, the whole nation lived in peace and plenty for many years afterwards.

P. What then may naturally be inferred from ſuch a popular ſtory?

T. That credulity in an hiſtorian, is of pernicious conſequence; that ſuperſtition is a vain and idle thing; and that the miſtakes which are grounded on it, are ridiculous and abſurd; and laſtly, that the fact was ſo far from being true, that there never was ſuch a thing throughout the whole world as a ſhower of real blood.

P. How is the ſoil in the weſtern part of this county?

T. It is very fertile at the riſe of the river Frome; and Blackmore-foreſt, commonly called the foreſt of White-hart, was once very well wooded, though at preſent, indeed, 'tis naked enough. However, ſtill 'tis a very commodious place for hunting.

P. From whence, pray, did it aſſume that new title of White-hart foreſt?

T. The inhabitants have a tradition concerning it, which ſeems natural enough; namely, that king Henry III. hunting once upon that particular ſpot, and having run down

down ſeveral deer, was pleaſed to ſpare the life of a milk white hart, which was afterwards taken by T. de la Linde, a gentleman reſiding in this county, and ſome of his ſporting companions.

P. What was the conſequence of that raſh action?

T. His majeſty ſo highly reſented the indignity, that he puniſhed them very ſeverely for their folly and preſumption; he made them pay an annual fine as long as he lived, which was commonly called white-hart-ſilver.

P. As you have told me that Portland and Purbeck are the principal places from whence we have the moſt ſolid and ſubſtantial ſtones; are there no other ſtones to be met with in this county?

T. Yes; ſome of different colours, and fit likewiſe for ſtately buildings. Here are white, red and grey ſtones, all proper for that purpoſe; but then there is another ſort beſides, which though much ſofter, is very excellent for ſome particular uſes, ſuch as to make Plaiſter of Paris, &c.

P. Are there not in this county ſeveral ſorts of earths, as well as ſtones, that have their peculiar uſes?

T. Yes; ſeveral that are diſperſed up and down; but the Tobacco-pipe-clay, which is dug up about Poole and Hunger-hill near Wareham, is ſo remarkably uſeful, and of ſo excellent a nature, that large quantities of it are ſent to Cheſter, London, and divers other places.

P. Were not the materials of which calcanthum, otherwiſe called copperas, firſt found out in this county?

T. Yes; One James Baron of Mountjoy, who was a very curious naturaliſt, found them out a little below Cranford, and made the attempt; but what progreſs he made therein, or whether his project anſwered his expectations or not, I cannot abſolutely determine.

P. Is not the coaſt of this county very diſſimular?

T. Yes; and the reaſon of it is, becauſe in ſome places it is bounded with high lands and cliffs, and in others with nothing but a beach of pebbles.

P. Of what are thoſe cliffs compoſed?

T. In ſome parts of ſand, earth and clay; but in others they principally conſiſt of chalk. And ſome again, particularly thoſe in the iſlands, of ſtone.

P. Is

P. Is there nothing peculiarly remarkable in regard to the bay between Weymouth and the iſle of Purbeck?

T. Yes; 'tis a very fine and ſpacious one; and the water there is ſo deep, that the largeſt merchant-ſhips come to this port, and find a very commodious harbour; and not long ſince there was an inſtance of a whale's coming ſo near the ſhore at Weymouth beforementioned, as to be left on the ſands at low water.

P. Can you oblige me with a particular deſcription of it?

T. Yes; though it was but a young one, it was near threeſcore feet in length; its head was remarkably large, and by no means proportionable to its tail; that being as ſingularly ſmall. The upper jaw-bone, which only meaſured about fourteen feet in length, was between five and ſix feet over, and two or three feet deep, conſiſting, on the lower part, of ſeveral long broad bones, like twelve-feet planks, and in the whole, it bore the reſemblance of an old weather-beaten wherry. The skull, on the inſide, meaſured between three and four feet, and the hole for the egreſs of the ſpinal marrow was at leaſt ſix inches over. The vertebræ of the back-bone were

extreamly large, one of them meaſured near twelve inches in length, and was twelve in thickneſs. The form of it was nearly cylyndric. The tail (as I obſerved before) was ſurpriſingly ſmall, and no ways in proportion to the other parts of its body; for in the wideſt part of it, the admeaſurement was no more than eleven feet; and there are ſome fiſhes, not twenty feet in in length, that have wider tails.

P. What curious productions are to be met with, pray, in the cliffs near Bridport?

T. Several of the foſſil kind, and large quantities, if I am not miſinformed, of copperas-ſtone; but the cornua ammoni are exceedingly beautiful; for they are overlaid with a gold-like mundic, are very regular and very perfect. Here likewiſe are taken the largeſt prawns and ſhrimps, perhaps, that are to be met with throughout the whole kingdom.

P. What curioſities are to be met with on the Dorſet coaſt?

T. A greater variety of beautiful ſhells than in any other part, 'tis poſſible, between that and the Land's-end.

P. Are there not ſome curious plants peculiar to this county, as well as to thoſe o-

thers

thers whereof you have already given me a particular account?

T. Yes; and as one Mr. Pike of Biddiford, a curious botaniſt, has taken the pains to collect them in alphabetical order, I ſhall take the liberty to give you a tranſcript of his liſt, which is as follows.

A CATALOGUE of PLANTS, in and near Dorcheſter, Blandford, Woodbery-hill, Beer, Wareham, Weymouth, Portland, Abbotsbury, Neatherbery, Charmouth and Chiddick, all in the county of Dorſet.

ADders-tongue,
Agrimony,
Alexander,
Arſmart, hot,
———, cold,
Aaron,
Arrow-head,
Bank Creſſes,
Baſtard Balm, white and red,
Baſtard Gromell,
Bettony,
Berry-bearing Orach,
Beſſom Moſs,
Birds-neſt,
Bitter Sweet,
Birds-foot, Great
Ditto, ſmall,
Biſhops-weed,
Black Henbane,
Ditto, Matfellon,
St. Bryone,
St. Fern,
Blood-wort,

Brook-lime,
Broad-leaved Rag-weed,
Branched Bur Reed,
Broad Plantain,
Broom,
Bugle,
Branched Sea-Moſs,
Bugloſs,
Bugloſs Cowſlips,
Beter Bure,
Borage,
Butcher's Broom,
Calamint,
Calamus Aromaticus,
Cats-tail,
Cats-tail Graſs,
Cammock,
Centory,
Celandine,
Cinquefoil,
Clowns Woundwort,
Cocks-foot Graſs,
Cotton Graſs,
Cotton Groundſell,
Corn Scabious,
Corn Marigold,
Crowfoot Treefoil,
Comfry,
Cockle,
Crowfoot,
Croſs-wort,
Creeping Iron-wort,
Coltsfoot,
Columbines,
Cowſlips,
Creeping Mouſe-ear,
——— John's-wort,
Crow Garlick,
Corn Horſe-tail,
Cuckow Flowers,
Corn Graſs,
Cyprus Graſs,
Dogs Stones, white and red,
Darnell Graſs,
Dittander,
Dock Creaſſe,
Dandelion,
Double Sope-wort,
Dodder,
Dutch Agrimony,
Devils Bit,
Dane-wort,
Dwarf Mallow,
Doves-foot,

Earth-

Earth-nutt,
Engliſh Coraline,
Eye-Bright,
Feather-top Graſs,
Fern Graſs,
Female Fools Stones,
——— Royal Satyrion.
Field Muſtard,
Flowering Sea-Plantain,
Fine Chickweed,
Female Pimpernel,
Fern Moſs,
Flower Branched Moſs,
Fluellen,
Fox-glove,
Fennel,
Fumetory,
Female Fern,
Flat-headed Globe Thiſtle,
Great Water Graſs,
Great Fox-tail Graſs,
Great Baſtard ditto,
Galingale,
Groundſel,
Golden Mouſe-ear,
Gooſe-foot,
Great Water Dock,
Golden Maiden-hair,
Ground Moſs,
Ground Liver-wort,
Graſs Wracke,
Glaſs-wort,
Great Wild Thyme,
Great Gromel,
Great Chickweed,
Great Daiſie,
Great Fig-wort,
Great Matfellon,
Great Knapweed,
Great Bur Dock,
Great Marſh Marigolds,
Golden Saxifrage,
Ground Ivy,
Gout-wort, or White Aſh,
Gooſe Graſs,
Hedge-hog Graſs,
Hairy Graſs,
Hairy Wood Graſs,
Hooded Matweed,
Hair Blue-Bells,

Harts-

Harts-horn Plantain,
Hedge Hyſop,
Horehound,
——— ———, ſtinking,
Hedge Nettle,
Hounds-tongue,
Hearts Eaſe,
Hop Trefoil,
Hart Trefoil,
Herb Robert,
——— Bennet,
Hemlock,
Horſe-tail,
Hawkweed, 13 ſorts,
Harts-tongue,
Hedge Chervil,
John's-wort,
Iron-wort,
Kneed Graſs,
———Water Graſs,
Knotty Dogs Graſs,
Knotted Dandelion,
Knotted Sheeps Sorrel,
Knott Graſs,
Knotted Parſley,
Kings Claver, or Melilott,
Lady Lace Graſs,
Lady Tracis,
Leſſer Spotted Fools Stones,
Lady Smocks,
Lambs Lettuce,
Looſe Strife,
Long Leaved Sengreen,
Little Silver Knappweed,
Leſſer Burdock,
Ladies Bedſtraw, red, white and yellow,
Lady Thiſtle,
Matweed,
Marſh Dogs Stones,
Male Fools Stones,
Male Royal Satyrion,
Marſh, Ditto
Mercury,
Mouſe-tail Plantain,
Mountain Flax, or Mill-mountain,
Mil-wort, purple, red, blue, and white,
Mountain Pink,
Marſh Chickweed,
Money-wort,
Mouſe-ear,

Mouſe-ear,
Mother-wort,
Middle Scabious,
May-weed, or Wild Camomile,
Mullin,
Maſter-wort,
Mug-wort,
Madder,
Male-fern,
Maiden-hair,
Monk's Rhubarb,
Nettles, 3 Sorts,
Oak-moſs,
Pearl-Graſs,
Plantain,
Parſley-break-ſtone,
Portland Sengreen,
Peter's-wort,
Pimpernel,
Purple-Money-wort,
Party-colour'd Horſe Mint,
Primroſe,
Plowmans Spikenard,
Perwinkle,
Polypody,
Prickly-head Globe-thiſtle,
Purple Trefoil
—— Cammock,
Quiver Graſs,
Queen of the Meadow,
Red Dwarf Graſs,
Ruſh Hard Graſs,
——Water Graſs,
Ramſons,
Ragweed of the Water,
Red Poppy,
Rib-wort,
Roſe Rib-wort,
Red Campion,
Ruſh Pink,
River Chickweed,
Rew-leaved Whitlow Graſs,
Red Valerian,
Red Archangel,
Red Rattle,
Red Yarrow,
Small Hard Graſs,
Small Fox-tail Graſs,
——Baſtard, Ditto,
Stitch-wort,
Spotted

Spotted Dogs-ſtones,
Small Wild Muſtard,
Sea Rag Weed,
Shepherds Purſe,
Small, Ditto,
Sea Orach,
Scorpion Graſs,
Sharp-pointed Dock
Sorrel,
Sheeps, Ditto,
Snake-Weed,
Small, Ditto,
Spoon-wort,
Sea Lavender,
Sea Star-wort,
Sea Lung-wort,
Sea Oak, or Wrake,
Sea Thongs,
Sea Thrift,
Sea Girdles,
Sea Fennel,
Sea Plantain,
Swines Creſſes,
Sope-wort,
Spurge,
Sea Spurge,
Sea Spurſlane,
Sea Penny-wort,
Sampier,
Small Gromel,
Small Chickweed,
Sea Chickweed,
Snail Graſs-wort,
Speed-well, or Veronica,
Spatling Poppy,
Scabious,
Sace alone,
Sanicle,
Smallage,
Shepherds Needle,
Sea Wormwood,
Teaſell,
Toothed Moſs,
Tormentil,
Thiſtle upon Thiſtle,
Violets, white and blue,
Vipers Bugloſs,
Vervain,
Wood Ruſhy Graſs,
White Hair Bells,
White Coraline,
White Daffodil,
Wild Garlick,
Water Creſſes,

Wate

Water Parſnep,
Water Scorpion Graſs,
White Wind Flowers,
White Campion,
Wall Pepper,
Water Penny-wort,
Wall, Ditto,
Wild Thyme,
Water Mint,
Water Calamint,
Water Horehound,
Water Agrimony,
Water Bettony,
White Archangel,
White Ox-Eye,
White Bindweed,
White Water Lilly,
White Cinquefoil,
Wood, Ditto,
Wild Angelica,
Wild Parſley,
Wild Nigela,
Wormwood,
Wood Horſe-tail,
White Maiden-hair,
White Cotton Thiſtle,
Wolfe Claw Moſs, 6 or 7 Feet long,
Yellow Daffodil,
Yellow Horn-poppy,
Yellow Archangel,
Yellow Fig-wort,
Yellow Water Lilly,
Yellow Trefoil, and
Yellow Cammock.

P. As you have now given me a ſatisfactory account of all the curioſities of the county, I ſhould be glad to hear what character the inhabitants of it for the generality bear.

T. The character of them, (both antient and modern) I ſhall extract from an accu-

accurate ſurvey thereof, publiſhed from an antient manuſcript, written by the reverend Mr. Croker, formerly of Mapowder, in the ſaid county.

"The antient inhabitants (ſays he) were the Durotriges, who lived under the government of the Romans. Afterwards, when the Saxons had made themſelves lords of this kingdom, it fell under the juriſdiction of the weſt Saxons, whoſe kings often reſided at Corſe, a caſtell in the iſle of Purbeck; but the Normans, driving them out, poſſeſſed their places, who, as in all other countries, conſiſted chiefly of gentrie; and commonlie the gentlemen for the moſt parte are of antient deſcent, and their houſes either by ſucceſſion or match, have a long time continu'd in their name or blood. Soe that I cannot generallie complaine, as one doth of another ſhire, that the gentrie were of no antient ſtockes. Beſides to their blood, they adde manie good graces and qualities, as learninge, and humanitie, which tho' ſomething remote, they bring from the univerſities. Moreover, they are endowed with much friendſhip one towards another; which hath been the cauſe of their frequent

quent matching amongſt themſelves; ſoe as they are for the moſt parte in ſome degrees of conſanguinitie allied: yet are not the bonds of affinitie and neighbourhoode ſoe ſtrong, as to tie them onlie to themſelves; but their humanitie extendeth even unto ſtrangers, unto whom they are generallie noted to bee verie kinde, and to ſhew them accordeing to their degrees both reſpects and courteſies; from the gentells, I will come to the merchant, who, with fiſhermen, inhabite the maritime townes. The inland townes are inhabited by tradeſmen, who, ſoe abound therein, that they furniſh themſelves and their neighbouring counties with what France, Spaine, and Eaſt-land afforde; by reaſon of the great quantities of cloth made in the chiefe towne of Dorſetſhire, Wareham, and other places of this countie.

From the merchant, I will deſcend to the commons, who are commonly copyholders, and by their cuſtoms are, tied to doe many ſervices unto their lords. Some of them are free-holders, whome we from the Saxons (yemen) call yeomen: but theſe and the rich farmers, who are thoſe that

take demeſnes of gentlemen at a rack-rent, (for that is the manner of this county) doe now begin much to encroach upon the gentry; and from them, divers times, iſſue families of note."

As to the modern Dorſetſhire gentry, they are very much like the ſoil they live on, open, free, and generous; full of life and ſpirit; good artiſts and mechanics in general, and their heads well turn'd to trade and merchandize; as appears by the many large and flouriſhing towns of trade, eſpecially near the ſea-coaſt; they are gay and polite at the ſame time, very ſtudious and lovers of ſcience in every ſhape; and conſequently no great friends to ſuperſtition.——Tho' there is no general rule without an exception.——In ſhort, you no where breathe a finer air, nor converſe with a better ſet of people.

ADDITIONAL

ADDITIONAL

REMARKS.

REMARK I.

THIS county contains 34 hundreds, 22 market-towns, 248 parishes, 6 castles, 25,000 houses, and 132,000 inhabitants.

REM. II.

It now gives title of duke and earl, tho' formerly that of earl only, to the family of Cranfield Sackville.

REM. III.

Its church-government is divided into five deanries, viz.

Deanries.		Pariſhes.
Bridport,	Containing	48
Dorcheſter,		45
Whitchurch,		55
Pimpern,		32
Shafton,		56

The archdeacon of Dorſet has the juriſdiction of the whole dioceſe of Briſtol, in which this county is entirely included.

REM. IV.

This county ſends twenty members to parliament, whereof two are knights of the ſhire, and two for each of the following towns, viz.

Dorcheſter,
Lime-Regis,
Bridport,
Weymouth,
Melcomb-Regis,
Wareham,
Corſe Caſtle,
Pool,
And
Shaftesbury.

Dorcheſter

REM. V.

Dorcheſter is 97 computed, and 123 meaſured miles from London. It was formerly the moſt conſiderable ſtation of the Romans in theſe parts. It had two mints in the time of the Saxons, and a caſtle which was demoliſhed by the Danes; but after the Norman conqueſt, a new one was erected, of which the greateſt of the barons uſed to be governors.

REM. VI.

Here are three churches, a town-hall, a ſhire-hall, and the county goal, with its chapel. 'Tis a common ſaying amongſt the inhabitants, that St. Peter's church was founded

By one Geoffery Van,
With his wife Anne,
And his maid Nan.

This, however, in all probability, is not real fact, but a vulgar error; for, from a large ſeal, with all the marks of antiquity, dug up here in a garden, about ſeventy years ago,

with the following inſcription, viz. Sigillum Galfridi de Ann, it is conjectured, and that not without very juſt grounds, that the true founder was one Mr. Ann.

REM. VII.

There are very few towns throughout the kingdom of England, that are either better paved, or better built; and the proſpect of it is very delightful. On Auguſt the 6th, indeed, 1613, a dreadful fire happened here, which conſumed two of its churches, and about 300 houſes, the damage whereof amounted, as we are told, at a modeſt computation, to no leſs than 20,000 l. The church, however, and the houſes have been all rebuilt long ſince; but what is moſt worthy of attention is this, namely, that there was not one ſingle life loſt in that general calamity. The ſtreets are wide and clean, the inns there are large, and the markets and fairs very well frequented. The toll of both is veſted in the corporation, who hold the manor of the borough at a fee-farm rent from the crown. King James I. empowered them to make choice of their own recorder; and by a charter granted them from king Charles

Charles I. they have a mayor, two bailiffs, ſix aldermen, and ſix capital burgeſſes; beſides whom there is a governor annually choſe by twenty-four common-council men, whoſe principal employment conſiſts in looking after the trade of the town; here are likewiſe a free-ſchool and three alms-houſes; and the aſſizes and quarter-ſeſſions; as alſo the elections for the knights of the ſhire are held here.

REM. VIII.

The Roman Ikening ſtreet, which enters this place by the north of Winterburn, at Weſt-gate, is evidently traced here; and the foundations of the Roman wall appear quite round the town; and notwithſtanding a ſtreet is built upon it on the eaſt-ſide, and the ditch itſelf is filled up; yet 'tis called the wall to this day. The Romans had an amphitheatre near it, which is now called Mawmbury, and the Terraſs upon it is a noted place of rendezvous, as there is a fine proſpect thereon, not only of the town, but of all the adjacent country. It was one of the winter ſtations of the Roman legions; and many Roman coins have been dug up here

here, particularly king Dor's money, commonly called here Dorn-money.

REM. IX.

This town is noted for its excellent beer and cakes, and it uſed formerly to ſend large quantities of malt to Briſtol. It has loſt, however, in a great meaſure its manufacture of broad-cloth, and its ſerge-trade, for which it was once peculiarly famous. Their ſheep are at preſent the beſt and moſt advantageous commodity they have to boaſt of; for we are credibly informed, that no leſs than 600,000 of them are fed within ſix miles round the town. The downs there abound with thyme and other aromatic herbage, which is ſo nouriſhing, that their ewes, for the generality, bring two lambs; for which reaſon they are bought up by all the farmers of the eaſtern part of England, who carry them to Bedfordſhire, Bucks, Oxfordſhire, and to Kent and Surry; and even Banſtead-downs, ſo famous for good mutton, are ſupplied from hence.

This

REM. X.

This town, ever ſince the reign of king Charles I. has given title of marquis to the dukes of Kingſton; tho' once it gave that of counteſs, for her life only, to Mrs. Catherine Sedley, ſo created by king James II. who had ſo great a regard for her, as to make her his miſtreſs.

REM. XI.

This town has ſent members to parliament ever ſince the original demand of burgeſſes, in the reign of king Edward I.

REM. XII.

Its markets are on Wedneſdays and Fridays; and its five fairs on the days following, viz. February 2, May 2, Trinity-Monday, June 24, and July 5. The three laſt are peculiarly ſet apart for the ſale of their ſheep; and on theſe days the town is thronged with ſtrangers, who reſort thither from all parts on that occaſion.

Judge

REM. XIII.

Judge Jefferys, after the rout at Sedgemore, near Bridgewater, in the year 1685, held that bloody aſſize here, which is never to be forgotten; for ſeveral hundreds were condemn'd by the lump, and ſent by cart-loads to Lymes, Taunton, &c. to be hang'd, drawn, and quarter'd; and at the ſame time, one John Tutchin, who wrote the obſervator in the reign of queen Ann, was ſentenc'd to be whipt once a year thro' every market-town in the county; upon which he petitioned that mercileſs judge to be hang'd; the novelty whereof induced him to ſend him firſt a reprieve, and afterwards to procure him an abſolute pardon.

REM. XIV.

Lyme-Regis, or King's Lime, is 120 computed and 144 meaſured miles from London. It formerly belonged to Sherborn-abbey, but was annexed to the crown in the reign of king Edward I. who granted it the ſame privileges as Melcomb-Regis, and

and indeed as London itſelf, with a court of huſtings; and freedom from all toll, laſtage, &c. which were confirmed by Edward II. and III. by king James I. Charles I. and by king William and Queen Mary.

REM. XV.

The corporation conſiſts of a mayor (who is juſtice of peace during his mayoralty, and the year after, and in the third year both mayor and coroner) a recorder, fifteen capital burgeſſes, and a town-clerk. As the town lies on the declivity of a hill, the houſes make a good ſhew one above another, and ſome of them are built with free-ſtone, and covered with blue ſlate.

REM. XVI.

It had formerly a very flouriſhing trade to France, Spain, the Streights, Newfoundland, and the Weſt-Indies, during which time the cuſtoms ſome years amounted to no leſs than 16,000 l. The merchants here have lately begun to trade in the pilchard-fiſhery.

This

REM. XVII.

This place is noted for the landing of the duke of Monmouth on the 11th of June 1685, with only 100 men, brought over in a man of war of thirty guns only, and two other ſmall veſſels, with arms indeed for 4000 men; but as he was defeated, a great number of his party were executed here, and their limbs hung up in the moſt conſpicuous parts of the town as a terror to evil-doers.

REM. XVIII.

Its liſts of members of parliament commences the twenty third of Edward I. In the year 774, the Saxon king Kinwulf gave land hereabouts to the church of Sherborn for the boiling of ſalt there to ſupply its neceſſaries.

REM. XIX.

Its market is on Fridays only; but it has the four following fairs, viz. February 2, and 24, May 2, and September 21.

Bridport

REM. XX.

Bridport is 115 computed and 145 meaſured miles from London. In the time of the Saxons it had a mint; it was created a borough by king Henry III. by whoſe charter Bridport was leaſed to the inhabitants, in fee-farm, for a ſmall quit-rent into the Exchequer, collected by their bailiffs, and payable at Michaelmas; which is done at this day by the corporation, who, under the king, are lords of all the Borough, except ſome ſmall manors in the poſſeſſion, or claim, of the duke of Bedford, Mr. Pitt, Mr. Strangeways Horner, &c.

REM. XXI.

It was incorporated by king Henry VII. and afterwards by queen Elizabeth and king James I. by whoſe charter two Bailiffs were to be annually elected out of fifteen capital burgeſſes; and the corporation were empowered to chuſe a recorder and a town-clerk. It began to ſend members to parliament in the twenty third year of king Edward I.

REM. XXII.

The quarter-ſeſſions for the county are held in the town-hall once a year. Its market is on Saturdays only; but its fairs are on Lady-day, Holy Thurſday, and Michaelmas-day.

REM. XXIII.

Weymouth is 104 computed, and 132 meaſured miles from London. It is ſituated on the river Wey, from whence it derives its name, which falling into the ſea here, divides this town from Melcomb-Regis. Conſidering the low ſituation of Weymouth, and its lying ſo near the ſea, it is a clean, and an agreeable town enough. Here is a cuſtom-houſe and a good quay.

REM. XXIV.

The merchants drove a very conſiderable trade formerly from this port to France, Spain, Portugal, and the Weſt-Indies; but it has ſince varied its channel, and the high duties on French goods have ſpoiled it in this, and all other parts on the ſouth coaſt of England;

England; where, however, a very bad one prevails, which is a clandeſtine one, and carried on at the expence of the king and the fair merchant. The Newfoundland trade notwithſtanding thrives here, and twenty ſhips are fitted out for it in ſome ſeaſons. The wine trade is here alſo very conſiderable; and they have a large correſpondence up in the country, for the conſumption of their returns.

REM. XXV.

This place firſt ſent members to parliament in the twelfth of Edward II. after which, till united with Melcombe, it made but one return, viz. the nineteenth of Edward II. It gives title of viſcount to the family of Thynne, at Longleat in Wiltſhire.

REM. XXVI.

This town and Melcombe make only one corporation and borough, with the exorbitant privilege of chuſing as many repreſentatives as the great metropolis of the kingdom; and every voter has privilege (as in London) to poll for four perſons, who, when they are choſen, are returned in two indentures; the

two firſt according to the number of votes, or their quality, under the title of burgeſſes of Weymouth; and the two others under that of Melcombe. The returning officer is the mayor, who may be nomitated out of any part of the borough of Weymouth and Melcombe, as may the reſt of the corporation, which conſiſts of a mayor, recorder, two bailiffs, twenty-four capital burgeſſes, and a number of aldermen uncertain, becauſe once a mayor always an alderman. Some of the inhabitants go to Radipole church, which is a noted land, as well as ſea-mark, where they bury their dead. Their markets are kept every Tueſday and Friday; and their fairs on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of June.

REM. XXVII.

Melcombe-Regis is 106 computed, and 132 meaſured miles from London. It is ſituated at the mouth of the river Wey, by which it is parted from Weymouth. It appears from its name, to have been antiently the king's demeſne, and from the records, to have paid quit-rent to the crown all along after king Edward I. till it was bought off by

by the inhabitants, before they were united to Weymouth. It ſent members to parliament in the reign of king Edward I. before Weymouth had that privilege; and it flouriſhed ſo greatly in the reign of Edward III. that it was appointed a ſtaple-town by act of parliament. In the following reign, however, the French burnt it, and it was by that means rendered ſo deſolate a place, that the remaining inhabitants prayed, and obtained a diſcharge from the cuſtoms. On account of its quarrels with Weymouth, in the reign of king Henry VI. its privileges, as a port, were removed to Pool; but in that of queen Elizabeth, they were reſtored to it by act of parliament, which was confirmed in the next reign, on condition that Melcombe and Weymouth ſhould make but one corporation, and enjoy their privileges in common; and to this was owing the flouriſhing condition of both. In the two reigns laſt mentioned, a wooden bridge, with ſeventeen arches, was built from hence to Weymouth, to which, as well as to its church, the chief contributors were certain citizens of London; and upon its decay, it was rebuilt ſome years ago at the joint expence of their repreſentatives, Sir Thomas Hardy,

William Hervey, John Ward, and Reginald Marriot, Eſqrs.

REM. XXVIII.

Here is a good market-place and town-hall, to which the members of the corporation of Weymouth come to attend public buſineſs, as the inhabitants in general do to its church for public worſhip.

REM. XXIX.

The port, which generally goes by the name of Weymouth, is ſaid to be the beſt frequented in the county, and is defended by Sandfort and Portland caſtles, built by king Henry VIII.

REM. XXX.

This town is reckoned bigger, more thriving and populous than Weymouth; they are both, however, as has been obſerved before, but one corporation and borough, and the market days and fairs are both the ſame.

Warham,

REM. XXXI.

Warham, or Wareham is 90 computed, and 108 meaſured miles from London. It aroſe, as the inhabitants will have it, out of the ruins of Stowborough, on the other ſide the river Frome. It was once a Roman town, and reckoned the oldeſt, if not the largeſt in all the county, it having at that time ſeventeen churches, though they are at preſent reduced to the three following, viz. St. Martin's, Trinity church, and St. Mary's, formerly a priory, the tower whereof is the principal ornament of the town.

REM. XXXII.

It had heretofore a mint, with walls, and a caſtle by the water-ſide, built by William the Conqueror, and before the retreat of the ſea from it, was a noted harbour.

REM. XXXIII.

The royalty of this town was granted by king James I. to one Thomas Emerſon; but after ſeveral ſales, it was above forty years ago purchaſed of the Plucknet's family, by the

the late general Eele, who ſettled it in truſt for ever on the corporation for binding out poor children apprentices.

REM. XXXIV.

The corporation, by a charter of queen Anne, conſiſts of a mayor, recorder, and town-clerk, ſix capital burgeſſes, and twelve common-council-men their aſſiſtants. The mayor, by antient preſcription, is coroner of the iſles of Purbeck and Brankſey, as well as of his own town, and has been the ſupreme magiſtrate here ever ſince Henry VI. By queen Anne's charter, the mayor, recorder, and preceding mayor are conſtituted juſtices of the peace (the two firſt of the quorum) and impowered to hold their own ſeſſions.

REM. XXXV.

It has ſuffered ſo much by wars (according to Cambden) from the time of Henry II. and by fire, together with the loſs of its haven, robbed from it by the ſea, that 'tis almoſt quite run to ruin; and the ſoil, that was in the very heart of the town, produces great quantities of garlick.

Its

REM. XXXVI.

Its principal trade conſiſts in tobacco-pipe clay, dug out of Hunger-hill; it has but two ſtreets, and about 200 houſes; it was remarkable, however, for the interment of Briatricus, the laſt of the Weſt-Saxon kings, during the Heptarchy, and for that of St. Edward the Martyr, who was tranſlated from thence to Shaftsbury.

REM. XXXVII.

Members were returned to parliament for this borough, the thirtieth, thirty-third and thirty-fifth of Edward I. and the fifth and ſeventh of Edward II. but no more, 'till the ſecond of Edward III. and from thence to the reign of Edward IV. after which the rolls are wanting to queen Mary's reign, from which they are continued, with ſome ſmall defects, to this time. The mayor returns the members, who are choſen by the inhabitants (about 150) who have paid ſcot and lot.

REM. XXXVIII.

It has a well-frequented market on Saturdays, the toll whereof belongs to the corporation; and the three fairs following, viz. April 6, June 24, and Auguſt 31.

REM. XXXIX.

Corfe-caſtle (ſituate in the middle of the iſle of Purbeck) is 39 computed, and 116 meaſured miles from London. It derives its name from a caſtle, which was ſuppoſed to have been built by king Edgar, who kept his court in this place: and as it was a royal demeſne, great privileges were then granted thereto by that prince, and ſince by others of our monarchs. It has a large lofty church, which is a royal peculiar, exempt from all epiſcopal juriſdiction or viſitation; and has a chapel of eaſe, about a mile off, belonging to it, called Kingſton chapel.

REM. XL.

It was a borough by preſcription; but firſt incorporated by queen Elizabeth, and afterwards by king Charles II. with the ſtyle of mayor

mayor and barons, enjoying the ſame privileges as the cinque ports; and this in particular, that the chief members, eſpecially thoſe who have been mayors, are called barons. The mayor, and ſo likewiſe is his predeceſſor, is a juſtice of peace, can hold ſeſſions, chuſe coroners for life, counſellors, ale-taſters, &c. which were privileges granted by king Charles I. as a reward for the noble defence that caſtle had made for him.

REM. XLI.

The lord of the manor is by inheritance lord lieutenant of the iſle of Purbeck, has power to appoint all officers, to determine all actions by his bailiffs and deputies, has all ſhipwrecks in the iſle, and a freedom from the court of admiralty. This manor continued in the crown from the conqueſt till Edward VI. gave it, with other manors, to his uncle, the duke of Somerſet, on whoſe attainder it reverted to the crown; but queen Elizabeth diſpoſed of it to Chriſtopher Hatton, Eſq; in whoſe family it continued till the reign of king Charles I. at which time it was ſold to the lord chief juſtice Banks, who repaired the caſtle, and made it a garriſon

riſon for that king; but it was betrayed to the parliament's forces, who not only plundered, but demoliſhed it. The ruins of the walls which were very large (the circumference of the ſite of the caſtle being near half a mile) retain great marks of the ſtrength and grandeur of this ſtately fort; and their ſituation on an high eminence makes them viſible at a conſiderable diſtance. It appears, that both this town, and Biſhop's caſtle in Salop were indebted to the intereſt of the abovementioned Mr. Hatton, for the privilege of ſending members to parliament; and this was a precedent for other gentlemen in the reign of queen Elizabeth, to procure the ſame privilege for other ſmall boroughs in Cornwall, Wiltſhire, Hampſhire, &c. where it has been exerciſed ever ſince.

REM. XLII.

Its market is held only on Thurſdays; and its fairs are two only, viz. on May-day and St. Luke's day.

REM. XLIII.

Purbeck, it is true, is called an iſland; but without any juſt reaſon; for there is no river that

that diſunites it from the continent. However, as it is encompaſſed by the ſea on every ſide, the weſt only excepted, where the Frome river joins the Langford lake, 'tis thereby made a peninſula. 'Tis about ten miles long and ſix over, and better inhabited than the ſea coaſt generally is in this weſt part of the county.

REM. XLIV.

Its principal manufacture is ſtockings. It was antiently a barony; and in the reign of king James I. gave the title of viſcount to John Villers, the elder brother of George duke of Buckingham, that king's favourite; but his ſon dying without iſſue, the title became extinct with him.

REM. XLV.

Pool (ſo called from its being ſurrounded, except on the north, by Luxford lake) is 88 computed, and 110 meaſured miles from London. It was a borough in the reign of king Edward II. In the reign of Edward III. it twice ſent members to parliament, but afterwards we find no returns for many years,

till Edward IV. When king Henry VI. disfranchiſed the port of Melcombe, he transferred that privilege to this place, and gave the mayor leave to encloſe it with walls, which king Richard III. began at the haven. By the reſort of ſhips hither, for want of a ſufficient depth of water at Wareham, this is become the moſt conſiderable town throughout the whole county.

REM. XLVI.

The government of this town is by a mayor, (who is always choſen out of the burgeſſes on the Friday before St. Matthew's day) a recorder, aldermen, a ſheriff, a coroner, a town-clerk, bailiffs, and common-council-men. Its houſes are but low, but moſt of them built with ſtone. Its church, which is a royal peculiar, whereof the corporation are patrons, is large indeed, but then 'tis low and dark, and above 200 years old.

REM. XLVII.

As this was antiently a hamlet of Canford, the manor was the king's demeſne. It has been granted by our monarchs to the Fitzpains, the

the Moncautes, earls of Salisbury, and other great families. The royalty, however, was veſted by king Charles II. in Sir John Webb.

REM. XLVIII.

By a charter of queen Elizabeth, no man can be made free of this town but by the election of the mayor, four aldermen, and twenty-four burgeſſes. That queen made it alſo a county of itſelf, and to have a ſheriff, &c. with the privilege of trying malefactors, &c. within its own juriſdiction. This, however, the corporation does, by procuring a commiſſion from the crown; otherwiſe the judges would come hither in their circuit from Salisbury to Dorcheſter. The mayor is eſcheator, clerk of the market, and admiral within the juriſdiction.

REM. XLIX.

Here are a cuſtom-houſe and quay, a handſome town-houſe of ſtone, and a large warehouſe called the town cellar for putting in merchants goods. Here are alms-houſes likewiſe, firſt erected in queen Elizabeth's time, by the donation of one Mr. Rogers, a wealthy

citizen of London, and a good charity-ſchool.

REM. L.

Its weekly markets are on Mondays and Thurſdays; the laſt of which was granted by Henry VI. together with two fairs, viz. one on St. Philip and Jude, and the other on All Souls day, and ſeven days after each.

REM. LI.

Shafton, or Shaftsbury, is ſituate on a hill, in the poſt-road to Exeter, which has a proſpect into Wilts and Somerſet, is 88 computed, and 103 meaſured miles from London.

REM. LII.

This town is ſuppoſed to have been built in the eighth century, and to have been enlarged by king Alfred. It had ten churches (beſides a famous monaſtery) in the Saxons time, but has now only four. King Edward the Confeſſor was buried here. It had three mints before the conqueſt, and in the reign of

of king Henry VIII. was the ſee of a ſuffragan biſhop.

REM. LIII.

It was incorporated by queen Elizabeth and king Charles II. and is governed by a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, bailiffs, and a common council.

REM. LIV.

There are about 600 houſes in the town, and a great number of them are built with free-ſtone. Water was formerly ſo ſcarce a commodity here, that the inhabitants were uſed to be ſupplied with it from Motcomb, in the liberty of Gillingham, on the backs of horſes. As the wells there, from whence ſuch ſupply of water, as abovementioned, was drawn, lay in a manor belonging to the late Edward Nicholas, Eſq; the mayor and burgeſſes of Shafton, uſed (by way of acknowledgment) to dreſs up a prize beſom (as they call it) not unlike a May-garland, with peacocks feathers, and plate borrowed of the neighbouring gentry, and carry it to an adjacent green, about half a mile below the

hill, and preſent it to the lord of the manor, together with a raw calve's head, and a pair of gloves, which were received by the ſteward, diſtributing at the ſame time twelve penny loaves among the people, and three dozen of beer. After the ceremony was over, the prize-beſom was reſtored to the mayor, and carried back to the town by one of his officers, with great ſolemnity. This inconvenience, however, of fetching water at ſuch a diſtance was in ſome meaſure remedied, and the town was more commodiouſly furniſhed therewith, in the year 1718, at the expence of William Benſon, Eſq; then one of its members in parliament, and ſince auditor of the impreſts, by means of engines, which raiſed the water above 300 feet perpendicular, and conveyed it to a large ciſtern or reſervoir, in the middle of the town, from the diſtance of two miles. But even this is at preſent laid aſide, and the inhabitants have dug ſeveral pits at their doors, in which they preſerve their rain-water; and the poor get their living to this day, by fetching it in pails, or on horſes.

This

REM. LV.

This place gave the title of earl in the reign of king Charles II. to Sir Anthony Aſhley Cooper, whom he at the ſame time made lord high chancellor, whoſe poſterity ſtill enjoy it.

REM. LVI.

This borough has returned members from the very beginning of parliaments to this time; ſaving a defect in the reigns of king Henry VII. and VIII. and Edward VI.

REM. LVII.

Its market is on Saturdays; and it has three fairs, viz. the Saturday preceding Palm-Sunday, Midſummer day, and St. Martin's.

REM. LVIII.

The other towns of moſt note, which are not parliamentary, are theſe that follow, viz.

Blandford, Sherborn, and
Winburn, Portland.

Blandford

REM. LIX.

Blandford, which is an antient, and at preſent a large flouriſhing borough, with a bridge over the Stour, in the coach-road to Exeter, is 85 computed, and 107 meaſured miles from London.

REM. LX.

It gives name to one of the five diviſions of the county, and is governed by two bailiffs, choſe annually out of the aldermen or capital burgeſſes. It has been twice burnt down by accident. Firſt, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, but was ſoon rebuilt; and the the laſt time on June 4, 1731, when the fire was ſo quick, that few of the people ſaved any of their effects; and the ſmall-pox being rife here, at the ſame time, many of the ſick were carried from the flames into the fields, and died there. The town, however, has ſince been rebuilt in a more beautiful manner.

REM. LXI.

Its principal manufacture formerly was band-ſtrings, and afterwards ſtraw-hats and bone-

bone-lace; but at preſent malt and cloth. It gives title of marquis to the duke of Marlborough, and is frequented by many gentlemen, whoſe ſeats are ſituate on the adjacent downs. It ſent members to parliament in the reigns of Edward I. and Edward III. but not ſince. The quarter-ſeſſions for the county is held here once a year.

REM. LXII.

Its market is on Saturdays; and its two fairs on February 24 and June 29.

REM. LXIII.

At a ſmall diſtance from this town is Blandford St. Mary's, which is the manor and ſeat of Mr. Pitt, a deſcendant of governor Pitt, who was called Diamond Pitt, and born there.

REM. LXIV.

Winburn, otherwiſe called Wimborn-minſter, is 82 computed, and 98 meaſured miles from London, and ſtands between the rivers Stour and Allen, which abound with fiſh. It was one of the Roman ſtations, and had

had the name of minſter from its monaſtery, wherein the weſt Saxon king Ethelred (brother to king Alfred) was interred, who was ſlain by the Danes in the year 872. The monaſtery, however, was afterwards changed into a collegiate church, and new-built. The choir here is the only one in the country; and to it belong four ſinging-men, ſix ſinging-boys, and an organiſt. The church is a noble edifice, about 180 feet in length, built cathedral wiſe, with a fine tower in the middle, whereon ſtood a ſpire (taller, as ſome ſay, than that of Salisbury) which in the laſt century fell down, and another tower at the weſt end. The two towers are (each of them) ninety feet high.

REM. LXV.

A very fine free-ſchool was founded here by Margaret, counteſs of Richmond, mother to Henry VII. the ſtipend of which queen Elizabeth augmented, and annexed it to the foundation. 'Tis a very populous, but poor place, and its ſupport is the knitting of ſtockings.

Between

REM. LXVI.

Between Wimborn-minſter and Cranborn there is a wood, called Harley; from which, and theſe two towns, ariſeth the following proverb, viz. "when Harley is hareleſs, Cranborn whoreleſs, and Wimborn poorleſs, the world will be at an end".

REM. LXVII.

Its market is on Fridays; and it has three fairs, viz. on Good-Friday, June 29, and September 3. On Good-Friday begins a cattle-market, which laſts ſeven weeks ſucceſſively.

REM. LXVIII.

Sherborn, which is 100 computed, and 118 meaſured miles from London, is an antient town in the coach and poſt-road to Exeter, very large, and very much frequented. It is divided by the river Parret into two parts; one called Sherborn, and the other, the caſtle-town, in which latter are a church and a market.

The

REM. LXIX.

The ſee of a biſhop was fixed here in the year 704, by Ina, king of the Weſt Saxons, in which there ſat twenty-five biſhops ſucceſſively, till the eleventh century, when, after being united with the biſhoprick of Sunning, it was removed to Sarum; whereupon this county was made a part of that dioceſe, till king Henry VIII. erected a new ſee at Briſtol, to whoſe dioceſe it has belonged ever ſince. Soon after the tranſlation of the ſee, the cathedral was converted into an abbey; the church whereof, which is a moſt magnificent ſtructure both within and without, being the beſt in the whole county, and ſo much valued by the inhabitants at the reformation, that it is ſaid, they bought it, and pulled down three churches and four chapels about the town, in order to preſerve it. In a quarrel that happened formerly between the tradeſmen and Monks, a great part of it was burnt, which the former were obliged to repair. At the entrance of it lie Ethelbald and Ethelbert, two of our Saxon king's; and in one of its iſles is a ſumptuous monument of John Digby, earl of Briſtol (who

died

died in 1698) whlch is reported to have coſt 1500l. In the tower are ſix bells, ſo big, that they require near twenty men to ring them.

REM. LXX.

This town was once the retiring place of William the Conqueror, and it belonged to ſome of his ſucceſſors for ſeveral centuries. Roger, the third biſhop of Salisbury, built a caſtle here, in that part, ever ſince, called Caſtle town; but king Stephen, incenſed at the biſhop's pride, ſeized it; and his ſucceſſors kept it till the year 1350, when it was recovered from the crown by Robert Wyvil, a biſhop of more courage than learning. This was the firſt caſtle that was formally beſieged in the civil wars, and the laſt that held out for the king.

REM. LXXI.

This town gave title of baron to John Digby, earl of Briſtol, ſo created in the reign of king James I.

REM. LXXII.

The number of the inhabitants are computed to be at leaſt 20,000 ſouls, by which it appears to be more populous than any other town in the whole county. They had formerly a very good trade in the medley cloth, but now buttons, bone-lace, and moſt ſorts of haberdaſhery wares, are their principal manufactures; with which they ſupply all the weſtern parts of the kingdom.

REM. LXXIII.

Here is a free-ſchool, founded by king Edward VI. and a fine alms-houſe, by Richard Beauchamp, biſhop of Salisbury; and in the neighbourhood there are ſeveral very fine country-ſeats.

REM. LXXIV.

Though it never had repreſentatives in parliament; yet it ſent William Turpin and two deputies to a council at Weſtminſter, in the eleventh year of the reign of king Edward III. And it will ever be famous for the prince of Orange's being met here by prince

prince George of Denmark, the dukes of Ormond, Grafton, Marlborough and many others of the prime nobility, on their deſerting king James II. at Salisbury, and thereby reſtoring the conſtitution of Great-Britain without blood-ſhed.

REM. LXXV.

Its markets, which are plentifully ſupplied with all neceſſaries, are kept on Tueſdays and Saturdays; and its three fairs on July 7, Auguſt 10, and September 21.

REM. LXXVI.

Portland, a peninſula oppoſite to Weymouth, was formerly an iſland; but is now joined (as it were) to the continent, by that ſhelf of ſand called Cheſil-bank, and yet is ſtill called an iſland.

REM. LXXVII.

It ſuffered very much heretofore from the Danes. Edward the Confeſſor, to ſhew his repentance for having accuſed his mother Emma wrongfully of incontinency with the biſhop of Wincheſter gave the whole of

it, and its revenues, to that cathedral; which was poſſeſſed thereof till the reign of king Edward I. when Gilbert de Clare, earl of Hertford and Glouceſter gave other lands to the church in exchange for it; through whoſe heirs it came to the crown.

REM. LXXVIII.

In the year 1632, it firſt gave title of earl to the Weſtons; as it did in the reign of king William III. to the Bentincks, a Dutch family, who, in the late reign, were advanced to the dignity of dukes of Portland. This town is thought worthy of a governor, who, for the generality, is a perſon of high extraction.

REM. LXXIX.

The principal ſeats in this county are the twelve following, viz.

1. Eaſtberry, ſix miles from Shaftsbury, in the pariſh of Gunfield, alias Gunville, between Blandford and Cranborn chace, the ſeat of Mr. Doddington, member for Bridgewater, nephew to George Doddington, Eſq; who was one of the lords of the admiralty in the reigns of king William and queen Anne; and

and left this gentleman, (then George Bubb, Eſq; his late majeſty's envoy in Spain) a very great eſtate, with an injunction to finiſh this ſeat, and to take his name and arms by act of parliament, as he has done. The houſe, which is one of the largeſt and moſt magnificent in England (the architect Sir John Vanbrugh) looks with its offices, at a diſtance like a little pariſh; and its gardens and park are eight miles in circumference.

2. The earl of Shaftsbury's, at Winburn St. Giles.

3. Mr. Portman Seymour's, at Breinſton, near Blandford.

4. Mr. Brown's, at Frampton, near Dorcheſter.

5. The earl of Salisbury's at Cramburn-houſe.

6. Earl Powlet's at Buckland; ſeven miles from Dorcheſter.

7. Lord Walpole's, at Puddleton, on the river Piddle, near Beer.

8. Lord Digby's, at Sherborn-caſtle.

9. Mr. Strangeway's, at Melbury.

10. Mr. Wild's, at Lulworth-caſtle near Dorcheſter, much admired by king Charles the ſecond.

11. The duke of Bolton's, at Hook-caſtle, ninety miles from thence,

12. Kingſton-hall, not far from Winburn-minſter, the ſeat of Mr. Banks, which has been valued at 10,000 l. only the manſion-houſe.

THE

THE
Natural Beauties
OF
SOMERSETSHIRE.

DIALOGUE IV.

BETWEEN

TUTOR and PUPIL.

PUPIL.

BY what name or title were the antient inhabitants of this county known and diſtinguiſhed?

TUTOR.

As the natives of Cornwall and Devonſhire were ſtiled by the Romans, in former ages,

ages, Dunmonii, and thoſe who reſided at the ſame time in Dorſet were called both by them and the Greeks Durotroges (as we have hinted before in one of our former dialogues) ſo the antient inhabitants of Somerſetſhire were known and diſtinguiſhed by the name of Belgæ, a people of Gaul.

P. From whence did they derive that appellation, and when did they firſt come over into Britain?

T. Though it be not perfectly clear from whence that appellation came; yet Mr. Camden is inclined to favour the opinion of thoſe who derive it from the old Gauliſh language, which our Welch (in a great meaſure) preſerve entire, and who aſſure us, that the term Belgæ owes its original to the epithet Pel, the ſignification whereof is very remote.

P. As that derivation appears to me, at preſent, ſomewhat obſcure and far-fetched, I hope I ſhall not be deemed troubleſome or impertinent in deſiring a farther explication.

T. Your freedom in asking any information that I can give you, will never give the leaſt offence. The epithet, however, will appear juſt and obvious enough, when you are

are aſſured, beyond all contradiction, that the Belgæ were the moſt remote people in all Gaul, and at the greateſt diſtance from the Roman provinces, not only with reſpect to their ſituation, but in point of humanity and good manners.

P. I thank you Sir, I am fully convinc'd of the reaſon that you have given me for their ancient name; but why, pray, are the preſent inhabitants of this place, called the natives of Somerſet?

T. Some hiſtorians are of opinion, that the county bears the title or appellation, on account of the air in thoſe parts being remarkably mild and gentle, and, as it were, a ſummer air; in which ſenſe the Britons, at this very day diſtinguiſh it by the name of Gladerhaf, which bears exactly the ſame ſignification with our Engliſh term laſt mentioned. Others, however, and Camden in particular peremptorily aſſert, that it derives its preſent title from Somerton, which was formerly the principal, and moſt noted town throughout the whole county; and he grounds his affirmation on this, that one Aſſer, a very ancient and credible hiſtorian

rian calls it Somertun, wherever he has the leaſt occaſion to make mention of the place.

P. What is this county peculiarly remarkable for?

T. Not only for its being very extenſive and very populous, but for its profuſion of all the conveniencies of life.

P. As the ſoil of it, by conſequence, muſt be very rich, pray how is it principally employed?

T. In grain and paſturage.

P. Are there any harbours of note in this county?

T. Yes, ſeveral; and thoſe likewiſe very commodious ones.

P. Which are the principal?

T. On the Severn ſea, thoſe of Minhead, and Watchet; Camden, indeed, mentions Watchet and Portlock only as the two principal; but the latter, at preſent, whatever it might be formerly, is inconſiderable.

P. Give me ſome account then, in the firſt place of Minhead harbour.

T. 'Tis one of the moſt frequented paſſages to the kingdom of Ireland; and of late years is greatly improved by the catching

ing of herring, which about Michaelmas come up the Severn in prodigious ſhoals; and when they are once caught and cured, they are ſent from this town to ſeveral markets up the Mediterranean, and turn out to a very great account. And as a farther teſtimony of the importance of this harbour, a ſtatute was made in the reign of king William III, for the recovering, ſecuring and keeping it in repair, for the benefit and ſupport of the navigation and trade of this kingdom.

P. What account can you give me of Watchet Port?

T. It is but a little port at preſent, and has only ſeven or eight veſſels belonging to it, which either trade in coals, or act as coaſters to Briſtol, where they ſupply the glaſs-houſes with the aſhes of ſea-weed, of which abundance is burnt here for that particular purpoſe. Great quantities of alabaſter which fall down the cliffs here by the waſh of the ſea, are ſent from hence likewiſe to that city. The inhabitants, moreover, fetch vaſt heaps of pebble from the coaſt, and burn it into lime for dreſſing their lands; but principally for building; no cement being more durable for maſonry

maſonry that is to lie under water, where it grows as hard as marble, and is generally known and diſtinguiſhed by the appellation of terraſs.

P. Is there any thing worthy of notice to be met with on the rocks and pebbles which are waſh'd by the Severn?

T. Yes; near old Cleve, which lies between Dunſter and Watchet, there are great quantities found of the Lichen Marinus, or ſea-liverwort, commonly called Laver, which the inhabitants gather, when the tide is out; and when they have cleanſed and pickled it, ſend it to divers markets at a great diſtance.

P. What are the qualities that ſo highly recommend it?

'Tis not only very agreeable to the taſte and very nouriſhing; but a very valuable anti-ſcorbutic likewiſe, and of excellent uſe by way of diet and medicine.

P. What is remarkable in regard to that ridge of hills which ſtand near Nettlecomb, and are known by the name of Eaſt-quantock-head?

T. That they turn through a rich country ſouthward as far as the Vale called Taunton-Dean, and afford a proſpect extremely

tremely delightful to the eye, by reaſon of its great variety of ſea and land, of barrenneſs and fertility, to the greateſt extent every way, of any other hills, perhaps, throughout the whole kingdom.

P. What is moſt obſervable at Start-point?

T. Two of the largeſt rivers in the whole county meet there, and empty themſelves at one mouth, called by Ptolemy, the Æſtuary of Uzella.

P. From whence did he give it that particular denomination?

T. From the river Ivell, which leaves that name before it reaches ſo far.

P. Where is its ſource or fountain-head?

T. In the county of Dorſet, and on its firſt coming into the county, we are now ſpeaking of, it gives name to a well frequented market-town called Evill, or Yeovil.

P. What is there peculiarly remarkable at Camalet, or Camel?

T. A ſteep mountain of a very difficult aſcent, on the ſummit whereof is an area of twenty acres at leaſt, if not more. The precipices here are, doubtleſs, great wonders of nature.

P. What is there obſervable at Eaſt Chenock?

T. A ſalt ſpring, notwithſtanding it is above twenty miles diſtant from the ſea: and Dr. Highmore has aſſured the public, that from one wine quart only of it, he procured, by evaporation, fourſcore grains of ſalt.

P. What is peculiarly remarkable at Taunton?

T. That the town and all the country round about it, is beautified with green meadows, and abounds in delightful orchards and gardens, which charm the eyes of every beholder.

P. What do the inhabitants of Taunton-Dean, or the vale of Taunton, ſay of that ſpot of theirs, which is about thirty miles in circumference?

T. That it needs no manure for the improvement of it; for with the ſun and ſoil alone, it is ſufficiently fertile.

P. What is peculiarly remarkable at Somerton?

T. An adjacent moor, of 20,000 acres of fine paſture ground, for the grazing of cattle gratis, by ſuch of the inhabitants as have a right of common.

P. What

P. What is the principal ſupport of that town at preſent?

T. Its markets and fairs for cattle; for to them the butchers reſort from Briſtol, Bath, Wells, Frome, Salisbury, Dorcheſter, and even from Wincheſter.

P. Were not the antient water-courſes of the above-mentioned moor, by being cloſe ſhut up, prejudicial, in ſome meaſure, to the inhabitants of the parts adjacent?

T. Yes; and for that reaſon there was a ſtatute, made in the tenth year of the reign of king William III. for opening them, and making new ones, in order to render them, not only more healthful, but more advantageous.

P. What is peculiarly remarkable at Bridgwater?

T. Notwithſtanding this town ſtands at about twelve miles diſtance from the Start-point, where the river Parret empties its waters into the Briſtol channel; yet from thence a ſpring-tide flows twenty-two feet at leaſt at the quay, and comes in with ſuch an impetuous torrent, and ſuch an aſtoniſhing noiſe, that 'tis called the Raging Boar. Ships of 200 ton frequently come up to its quay; by which conveniencies for navigation, the in-

habitants carry on a pretty good coaſt trade to Briſtol, to Wales for coals, and for ſlate to Cornwall, &c. for which purpoſe, twenty coal ſhips at leaſt are conſtantly employed.

P. Is not the receipt of the cuſtoms here conſiderably high?

T. Yes; it amounts to about 300 l. per annum.

P. Do the merchants there carry on any conſiderable trade abroad?

T. Yes; but principally to Portugal and Newfoundland.

P. What commodity in particular is brought to this town in large quantities from Ireland?

T. Wool.

P. Do they carry on any conſiderable retale trade in this town?

T. Yes; they deal largely in corn, cattle, hogs and ſheep; and ſcarce any market town throughout the whole kingdom of England is better ſupplied with the beſt of cheeſe.

P. Are not all proviſions in general here extreamly cheap?

T. Yes; and in ſo remarkable a manner, that this fertile ſpot may, with propriety enough, be termed a Paradiſe for Epicures.

P. What

P. What are the particular commodities which the inhabitants of Bruiton, or Bruton principally trade in?

T. Serges, ſtockings and malting.

P. What is there peculiarly remarkable at Alferd?

T. A mineral water, of a purging nature, no ways inferior to thoſe at Epſom, or any other medicinal waters whatſoever. And this water is ſo univerſally eſteemed, that it proves of great benefit to the weſtern parts of England; ſince 'tis carried from thence to divers places very remote.

P. What is peculiarly obſervable at the town, called by the antient Britons, Yinſwytrin, which at preſent is known by the name of Glaſtonbury, or the iſle of Avalon, famous for its apples?

T. A very remarkable hill called the Tor, from the tower that is erected upon it, and rears its head to a prodigious height.

P. What is there peculiarly growing on this hill, that renders it more famous than other hills?

T. The Holy-thorn, or Haw-thorn, and a Walnut-tree, that grew in the church-yard there, a particular account whereof has been exhibited by thoſe learned antiquarians,

Mr. Hearne, Mr. Broughton, and Mr. Camden, which, tho' ſomewhat curious, are too prolix and ſuperſtitious to be here inſerted.

P. What are the Mendippe hills, which run out a great way, both in length and breadth, peculiarly remarkable for?

T. Not only for the abundance of lead-mines which are found there, and for that reaſon formerly called minerary hills, but for the extraordinary paſture likewiſe which thoſe hills afford. About the weſt end of this ridge of hills, there is found likewiſe large quantities of Lapis Calaminaris, of divers colours; as alſo ſeveral veins of Magneſia, or Mongoneſſe, and alſo ſome of yellow oker.

P. What is there more curious than ordinary to be met with on the ſouth ſide of this ridge of mountains?

T. A famous triple grotto, called Ochie-Hole, or Wockey, but more commonly Okey-Hole.

P. Can you give me a deſcription of that ſubterraneous cavern?

T. Yes; and as 'tis the moſt remarkable one in all the weſt of England, and much reſorted to by ſtrangers, I ſhall endeavour to gratify your curioſity with a ſhort account of it:

it: The cave's mouth, then, is about thirty yards diſtant from the foot of the hill. The entrance is about fifteen or twenty feet, and not very narrow; it opens into a very large vault, like the body of a cathedral church; the upper parts whereof are very craggy, and abound with pendant rocks, which ſtrike terror into a timorous ſpectator, eſpecially as they appear by candle-light, by which they may be plainly diſcerned. From all parts of the rock there is a conſtant dripping of a clear water, in which, however, there is a large quantity of lapideſcent particles. The bottom of this firſt vault on which you walk is extreamly rough, ſlippery and rocky, abounding with irregular baſons of water; there are none of thoſe cones, however, that there were formerly, which then added greatly to the pleaſure of that gloomy grotto. From the firſt you proceed, on a gradual deſcent, thro' a very narrow and uneven paſſage, into another large vaulted cavern, which, tho' not ſo lofty as the former, is very nearly as long and wide, and in all other reſpects much like it; from this you paſs through a long, low, rocky paſſage, into a third vault, with a cylyndric roof, and one ſide a fine ſandy bottom to walk on, about fifteen or twenty feet wide; and

and on the other, there is a little ſtream or rivulet of water, extreamly clear and cold, about eight or ten feet wide, and two or three deep. Some authors will tell you that this rivulet abounds with eels and trouts; but if that relation be matter of fact, it is very marvellous, and not eaſily to be accounted for. 'Tis very obſervable, that the loudeſt noiſe that twenty people could make in theſe hollow caverns, is not in the leaſt audible to thoſe who are on the outſide of the hill, tho' directly over thoſe below. The air of theſe caverns is likewiſe very cold and damp.

P. For what is the village Cheddar, which lies about five miles north-weſt of theſe ſubterraneous caverns, peculiarly remarkable for?

T. It is remarkable on two accounts; the firſt is with reſpect to the cheeſe that is made there, which doubtleſs excels, in high reliſh and delicate flavour, all other cheeſe whatever; for tho' that of Membery in Devonſhire, and that called double Glouceſter, are exceeding good; yet neither of them is comparable to that of Cheddar, in caſe 'tis kept to a proper age. Some gentlemen of taſte will tell you, that it is equal at leaſt, if not ſuperior, to the Parmeſan; but what makes this

this place ſtill more noted, is the ſtupendous chaſm or cleft, quite through the body of Mendippe hill, which one would imagine had been ſplit aſunder by ſome violent ſhock of an earthquake. At the entrance of the clift there is a very remarkable ſpring of water, riſing, as it were, upright, out of the rocky baſis of the hill, and ſo large and rapid its ſtream, that it drives a mill within a few yards.

P. What is the ſurface of theſe hills principally covered with?

T. As the ſoil is very barren, it is in a great meaſure covered with heath, fern and furze, and conſequently affords but very little food for any cattle.

P. Can you give me any account of Selwood-foreſt, which lies in the eaſtern part of this county?

T. Yes; its extent formerly was no leſs than fifteen miles in length, and ſix in breadth, inſomuch, that in days of old, the adjacent country was called Selwoodſhire. This wood was once very thick ſet with trees; but in proceſs time, as it became a noted aſylum for robbers and money-clippers, moſt of the trees have been cut down, in order to unharbour them.

P. Which

P. Which is the principal town in this foreſt?

T. That called Frome Selwood, which is larger than ſome cities, and the number of its inhabitants is reckoned to amount to between 13 and 14,000 perſons.

P. What is the principal maintenance and ſupport of thoſe inhabitants?

T. The woollen manufacture; and thirty years ago, more wire-cards for carding wool for the ſpinners, were made here than in all England beſides. This town was formerly likewiſe noted for its moſt excellent beer, which, when kept to a great age, the gentry, for the generality, preferred it to the wines of France and Portugal: its malt liquors, however, at preſent are no better than other people's.

P. Can you oblige me with a particular account of the beauties of the Bath?

T. Yes; this antient city lies in a plain of a moderate extent, and is ſurrounded with hills, which form a kind of amphitheatre, and ſend down a great variety of ſalubrous ſprings. In the time of the Saxons, it was called Acmenceſta, which in their language implied the city of infirm, diſeaſed Men. When the baths here were firſt diſcovered is a matter

a matter entirely unknown; 'tis no ways to be queſtioned, however, but that they gave riſe to the city; and in every age ſince they have occaſioned a great reſort of people, whoſe diſorders could either be abſolutely removed, or in any meaſure alleviated by their waters. This city, at preſent, indeed, is not ſo much an Acmanceſta, as a city of pleaſure, and modern grandeur; and is juſtly eſteemed the moſt polite, gay, and agreeable place in the world; ſituate in the very boſom of the river Avon, with verdant meadows, riſing hills, and a great variety of delightful walks all round about it. But what is ſtill more valuable than all, is this, that the wretched and miſerable part of mankind are here made happy on a threefold account; for they are either wholly delivered from their painful diſorder, through the healing qualities of the waters of the different baths; or they are at leaſt oftentimes greatly relieved; and have the advantage moreover, of being directed by the judgment and advice of the moſt eminent phyſicians.

The ſtone with which the fine buildings in this city are erected, is dug out of the quarries upon Charlton-down, and brought from thence down a ſteep hill, by a four wheeled

wheeled carriage, of ſuch a particular ſtructure, that it moves down hill with four or five ton weight of ſtone, with abundance of eaſe, and without the help of horſes; and the motion is moderated by means of a friction lever, which bears more or leſs on the hinder wheel, as occaſion requires.

Great quantities of the ſtone dug out of theſe quarries are ſent by the Avon to Briſtol, and from thence to London, the river Avon being lately, by an act of parliament, made navigable to that city by means of ſix ſeveral locks.

Theſe quarries are now become very famous. The ſtone, indeed, is not quite ſo white and hard as that from Portland; but it is notwithſtanding very uſeful in building, ſince it is eaſy to be wrought with edged tools, and faſhioned in a lathe, for all the ornamental parts of architecture and ſtatuary, &c. for which purpoſe there are ſeveral ſhops and artificers of great note conſtantly employed. Upon which account likewiſe this ſtone is ſent to all parts of England. It muſt be allowed, however, that within a few miles of this city, there are ſome quarries of excellent ſtone, in regard to its fine white colour, ſolidity, and grain; and very little,

little, if any, if any thing inferior to that of Portland; but as it lies at ſome conſiderable diſtance, and very deep, it is but little uſed in building, except it be upon the ſpot.

About a mile only weſt of this city, there is a quarry of hard ſtone principally uſed for mending of the roads. There are likewiſe frequently found here ſeveral very remarkable foſſil ſubſtances; but more particularly divers ſorts of ſhells, ſome whereof are very black and gloſſy, and very evidently grow here, the whole rock being a gradual petrification of the earth in that part, as is plainly demonſtrable from ſeveral pieces of wood, and other matters being found at the depth of ſixteen feet and more from the ſurface of the ſolid rock of ſtone.

At the ſame place there is a cold bath, whoſe water of late has been diſcovered to have nearly the ſame qualities with thoſe of Briſtol. They are very ſmooth, pleaſant to the taſte and make excellent tea.

P. For what is Straunton-drew, ſituate on the river Chew, peculiarly noted?

T. For an antient monument, called the Wedding; from a ridiculous tradition among the people, that as a bride was go-

ing to be married, both ſhe and all her company were metamorphoſed into theſe ſtones which are five or ſix feet high, and placed in a circular form. The whole monument which is ninety paces in diameter, is bigger than the famous Stone-henge.

P. What is the river Avon peculiar noted for?

T. For being at ſeveral places, in the ſpring of the year, perfectly covered; and coloured black with millions of fiſh, called Elvers, which are a kind of ſmall eels, ſcarce ſo thick as the barrel of a gooſe-quill. Theſe, we are told, the people ſkim from the ſurface of the water in great numbers, with ſmall nets, and then by a peculiar method of ordering them, make them ſcour off their ſkins, at which time they look extremely white, and are made into cakes, which when fried are accounted dainties.

P. What is there peculiarly remarkable at Chew-Magna, or Biſhop's-Chew?

T.. The country people there dig up a red bole, which they call redding, or ruddle, which is ſent from thence all over England, and uſed principally for marking of ſheep.

P. What

P. What is there obſervable to be met with at Stowey?

T. A peculiar ſpring on one ſide of a hill there, the water whereof running thro' that little town, covers whatever it meets with in its courſe, with a ſtony cruſt. It has not, however, the ſame effect as its ſource, nor within twenty yards of it, but the place where this effect is moſt viſible is about forty or fifty yards from the ſpring-head, where it ſheathes every thing with a ſtony-caſe, and renders the ſides of the bank a hard rock, and from thence all along its ſtream, it covers ſticks, &c. with a hard ſtony ſubſtance.

P. What is there more curious than ordinary to be met with at Cainſham?

T. A great number of ſtones which bear ſome reſemblance to ſerpents. Theſe ſnake-ſtones, as they are commonly called, have the repreſentation of a ſnail in raiſed work upon their ſurface, which is always coiled up, the tail being in the center, and the larger part, where the head ought to be placed, on the outward circle, but there is not the leaſt appearance of a head to be found; tho' the country-people to heighten the wonder, ſometimes cut the ſtone into

that form with a knife. Theſe ſpiral rolls are perfectly cloſe, ſo that no other part of the ſtone can be ſeen between them, and for the generality they are ribbed with croſs-lines, and reſemble the body of a ſnake, when its ſkin has been ſtript off. Theſe ſtones are of a different ſize; ſome being a foot round only, and others above a yard. The ſubſtance whereof they are compoſed is a kind of free-ſtone of a whitiſh colour. There are always near them oyſter-ſhells, cockle-ſhells, and the ſhells of ſeveral other kinds of ſea-fiſh.

P. What is there more remarkable than common at Briſtol?

T. On each ſide of the river Avon the hills form a moſt beautiful proſpect, tho' they are but of little advantage to their poſſeſſors; for they are neither fertile in herbage, nor timber; but are for the generality filled with rocks, which often lie near at leaſt, if not quite up to the ſurface; they are covered, in a manner, with fern and furze, and the few trees that are ſcattered about upon them, don't flouriſh like thoſe in a better ſoil. There are juſt grounds to imagine, that theſe hills abound with iron, from the redneſs of the earth

and

and ſtones, which, in many places are coloured with ore, and from the Ochre found in the cracks of the rocks. The vallies, however, make amends for the barrenneſs of the hills; for theſe are fruitful enough, and the ſoil in many places deep. Theſe are chiefly employed in paſture.

The Ochre above-mentioned is greatly ſuperior to that which is found in the ſhops; and conſiderable advantage might be made of it, in all probability, by collecting the pureſt parts of it, and ſending it to London, where it might be ſold to the painters at an advanced price.

A very curious painter has obſerved, that there are here two principal kinds of earth of the nature of Ochre; the one red and the other yellow; which are of a friable or brittle nature, and often crumble to duſt in the places where they lie. The red is of a deep colour between crimſon and purple, and is a ſtrong body, the yellow is of a fine gold colour, and is light, duſty, and of ſo ſtrong a body, that a dram of it is equal to an ounce of common Ochre, and is beſides of a better colour. Each tinges the fingers very much on being touched, and when ground up with oil

in the common way, prove excellent colours for painting.

There is another ſort of the deep red that is found in larger quantities, but then it is not ſo fine: and in ſome of the crevices of the yellow iron-ores, there is a fine light ſort like meal; which may be blown away with the breath, and is as fine to the touch as powder for the hair. This is of a lemon-colour, and nearly reſembles what is generally called French Ochre, but 'tis much finer, and to be found no where but in ſmall quantities. Here are lumps likewiſe of emery, and manganeſe; and in the ſame rocks there are moreover, veins of lead-ore, but they are ſmall, and the ore in general is not over rich.

P. What have you peculiarly remarkable on the banks of of the lower Avon?

T. That river is bounded, on each ſide, with high, rough, and craggy rocks, the cliffs whereof are in ſome places above 200 feet high, projecting in an aſtoniſhing manner; and as many of theſe are covered with tufts of graſs, ſmall ſhrubs, tall plants, and chumps of dwarf-trees, they ſeem to form little hanging woods, and afford the moſt agreeable and romantic proſpect imaginable.

ginable. Here are likewiſe to be found ſeveral beautiful chryſtals and ſpars, but not in that plenty nor variety as thoſe in the county of Glouceſter.

P. What character in general do the natives of this county bear?

T. The common people are naturally adapted to endure labour and fatigue, which reſult of neceſſity from mountains and valleys a ſtony, ſteril ſoil, with very bad roads in almoſt every part; at the ſame time, however, they are, for the moſt part, perfectly honeſt, well favoured, and of ſtrong conſtitutions; a ruſtic ſimplicity (even in the very loweſt claſs) governs their manners, and renders them very courteous to ſtrangers. The better ſort, or ſuch as are perſons of education and fortune, are much the ſame in this county as in other places; but their good ſenſe and taſte is unqueſtionable, ſince they are fond of promoting all kinds of literature; but more particularly ambitious of promoting the ſtudy of philoſophy in all its branches. As to mechanicks, there are ſeveral here who diſtinguiſh themſelves greatly by their manual operations: Bridgwater in particular is remarkable for the curioſities that are wrought there. A gentleman of Taunton, ſome years ago, invented a ma-

a machine for making of bricks, and another for weaving diaper, by which a man might do as much work in one day as is for the moſt part done in a week. And as for varlety of mills for the manufacturing of braſs, copper, log-wood, wire, paper, corn, &c. there is no county perhaps throughout England thar can rival them.

ADDITIONAL

ADDITIONAL

REMARKS.

REMARK I.

THIS county has 42 hundreds, 132 vicarages, 385 pariſhes, near 1700 villages, and 30 market towns. It ſends 18 members to parliament, viz. two for the county, two for Briſtol, two for Bath, two for Wells, two for Taunton, two for Bridgwater, two for Ilcheſter, two for Milbourn port, and two for Minhead.

The

REM. II.

The area of this county has been computed by ſome at near two millions of acres; its houſes above fifty thouſand, and its number of ſouls two hundred and eighty thouſand.

REM. III.

This county, which lies in the dioceſe of Bath and Wells, formerly gave title of earl, as it does now of duke to the family of Seymour, deſcended from Edward Seymour, duke of Somerſet, and uncle to king Edward VI.

REM. IV.

Briſtol, which is 94 computed, and 115 meaſured miles from London, is the ſecond city in the Britiſh dominions for trade, wealth and number of inhabitants. The corporation now conſiſts of a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, two ſheriffs, and forty-two common-council-men. Beſides its cathedral and eighteen churches, there are ſeven or eight meeting-houſes of proteſtant diſſenters; amongſt whom the quakers are a very conſiderable body. As to the church of St. Mary Radcliffe,

Camden

Camden aſſures us that 'tis the fineſt pariſh-churth in the kingdom of England. It has a ſtone bridge over the Avon, of four arches, and on which there are houſes built, as on London bridge. It has an exchange likewiſe, like that in London, which was firſt opened on the 21ſt of September 1743. Its quay is one of the moſt commodious that England can boaſt of for ſhipping and landing of merchants goods. Its merchants were the firſt adventurers to the Weſt-Indies. There are here ſome conſiderable manufactures of woollen ſtuffs, particularly cantaloons, carried on chiefly by French refugees. On the college green, which is a very delightful place, ſtands not only the cathedral, but the croſs, which is a fine Gothic ſtructure, with the effigies of ſeveral kings of England all round it. In this city there are eighteen hoſpitals, beſides charity-ſchools, a guild-hall, and a very large council-houſe. Its cuſtom-houſe is adorned with rows of trees, which lead to a curious equeſtrian ſtatue of king William III. in the center. It has fourteen gates, but it walls were demoliſhed in the reign of William Rufus.

Its

REM. V.

Its market days are on Wedneſdays and Saturdays, beſides their cattle markets on Thurſdays; their two fairs are held on St. James's day, and on the feſtival of St. Paul. At each of theſe fairs there are ſeveral Londoners that keep open ſhops; during which ſome of the inn-keepers in the parts adjacent make no leſs than 100 beds a-piece for the reception of their gueſts.

REM. VI.

This city has given title of earl to two noble families; viz. to that of Digby, ſince extinct; and at preſent to that of lord Hervey of Ickworth.

REM. VII.

Bath, which is 89 computed, and 108 meaſured miles from London, was famous in the Roman time for its medicinal waters, and Camden tells us, that king Bladud found out the uſe of them 300 years before Chriſt. In the ſummer ſeaſon there are no leſs ſometimes

times than 8000 ſtrangers, who frequent this place for health's ſake, or for amuſement.

REM. VIII.

The corporation conſiſts of a mayor, eight aldermen, and twenty four common-council-men. It gave the title of earl formerly to the family of Granville; as it does at preſent to the right honourable William Pulteney, Eſq; ſo created by his preſent majeſty in 1742.

REM. IX.

Its markets are on Wedneſdays and Saturdays, and its fairs are kept on February the 2d, and 24th, May 7, June 9, and Auguſt 1.

REM. X.

Wells, which is 102 computed, and 127 meaſured miles from London, is a very clean and neat, tho' but a ſmall city. It was firſt made a free borough in the reign of Henry II. and the charter ratified by king John, and afterwards by queen Elizabeth;

beth: and tho' the chief officer at firſt was only ſtiled maſter; yet before the reign of queen Elizabeth, the borough was called a city, and its chief magiſtrate a mayor. 'Tis at preſent governed by a mayor, recorder, ſeven maſters, or aldermen, and ſixteen gownſmen or common-council-men. A charity ſchool was erected here in 1714, for twenty boys and twenty girls. The town hall maintains thirty poor men and women. The biſhop's palace is reckoned the handſomeſt of that denomination throughout the whole kingdom of England. On the ſouth ſide it looks like a caſtle, and is fortified not only with walls, but a moat likewiſe.

REM. XI.

The chief manufactures here are knitting of hoſe, and bone-lace. Here is a handſome market-houſe and town-houſe, where the corporation meets, and where the judges hold their aſſizes.

The

REM. XII.

The members of parliament are choſen by the citizens, who are in number above 500. The markets here are kept on Wedneſdays and Saturdays; and the fairs are on May 3, June 24, October 11, and November 27.

REM. XIII.

Taunton, which is 120 computed, and 147 meaſured miles from London, is delightfully ſituated on the river Thyne. 'Tis a populous borough, and Cambden calls it one of the eyes of the county.

REM. XIV.

Tho' this corporation forfeited their charter, which had been granted by king Charles I. yet a new one was procured for it, from king Charles II. by biſhop Mew. The corporation now conſiſts of a mayor, Recorder, Juſtice, two aldermen, twenty four capital burgeſſes, a town clerk, two

conſtables, two Portreeves, and two ſer-jeants at mace.

REM. XV.

The inhabitants are computed at above 20,000 perſons, of whom ſome thouſands are employed in the manufactures of ſerges, duroys, ſagathees, ſhalloons, &c. for weaving whereof 1100 looms have been employed at a time; and children of above five years old, may earn their own bread in this manufacture.

REM. XVI.

The Thone by act of parliament in the reign of king William III. was made navigable from hence to Bridgwater; there is a bridge over it maintained by the corporation. Here are moreover two pariſh churches, ſeveral proteſtant diſſenting meeting houſes, a well endowed grammar ſchool; an hoſpital, and a great number of ſmall alms houſes.

Many

REM. XVII.

Many of the inhabitants of this town were in the ruin of the duke of Monmouth; for this was the chief ſcene of the bloody execution of his adherents, by general Kirk, and that inhuman, blood thirſty wretch judge Jeffries. No wonder therefore, that when the prince of Orange arrived here from Torbay, this whole town ran to him with ſuch univerſal joy, that 'twas thought, if the prince had wanted it he might have raiſed a little army in the town and parts adjacent.

REM. XVIII.

The election of members of parliament here is very ſingular; for every pot walloner, that is to ſay, every one who dreſſes his own victuals, is intitled to a vote; ſo that the inmates or lodgers, to qualify themſelves, a little before the election comes on, make a fire in the ſtreets, and there boil their victuals.

REM. XIX.

Its markets are on Wedneſdays and Saturdays; and its fairs on June 17, and July 17 for a week.

REM. XX.

Bridgwater, which is 116 computed, and 143 meaſured miles from London, was given, after the conqueſt, to one Walter d'Norman; and in all the old charters it is called Brugge-Walter, or Walter's Borough. It is now governed by a mayor, a recorder, two aldermen, who are juſtices of the peace, and twenty-four common-council men. They have alſo a town-clerk, a clerk of the market, a water-bailiff, and two ſerjeants at mace. Out of the common-council there are two bailiffs annually choſen, who have the ſame power as ſheriffs, and a receiver, who collects the town rents, and makes payments. The revenues are valued at ten thouſand a year. The freemen of this city are free in all the ports of England and Ireland, London and Dublin only excepted. It has a ſpacious town-hall, and a high croſs. Its church has a lofty ſpire, and

and here is a very fine meeting-houſe, with an advanced ſeat for ſuch mayors and aldermen as happen to prove diſſenters; as alſo a private academy for ſuch of their youth, as are intended for preachers. Here is a large free-ſchool and a neat alms houſe. In 1724 the late duke of Chandois built a fine ſtreet here with convenient warehouſes.

REM. XXI.

Its markets are on Thurſdays and Saturdays; and its fairs, which laſt two days each, the firſt Tueſday in Lent, May 17, June 24, September 21, and December 29.

REM. XXII.

In the civil wars this town ſuſtained ſeveral hot ſieges. It was at firſt garriſoned by the parliament, but at length reduced by the king's forces, who held it out for him till the war was almoſt at an end; but in 1653, it ſurrendered to Oliver Cromwell, after it had ſuffered ſeverely by the ſiege, with a treaſure amounting to 100,000 l. beſides cannon and other military ſtores. In 1685, the duke of Monmouth

Monmouth lodged in its caſtle, was proclaimed king there, and there touched perſons for the king's evil. King James II. came hither in 1686, and lodged in the caſtle, where he celebrated maſs; but his judges touched for the evil in theſe parts, by thoſe butcheries, which are recorded in the bloody aſſizes.

REM. XXIII.

Ilcheſter, or Ivelcheſter, which is 104 computed, and 125 meaſured miles from London, is ſo called, becauſe it once had a caſtle, which was built, as ſome ſay, by the Romans, and ſtands on the river Ivel. It is evident from the ruins, and from two towers on the bridge, that it was once a large place, and encompaſſed with a double wall.

REM. XXIV.

'Tis governed by two bailiffs, who, with twelve burgeſſes, are lords of the manor. In the reign of Edward III. the aſſizes for the county were fixed here; but ſince they have been held alternately at Wells, Taunton and Bridgwater. The knights of the ſhire are always elected here, and 'tis the place for the

the county courts and jail. And as its principal dependance is on the latter, it cannot well be either very polite, rich or happy. It has the honour, however, of giving title of lord to Stephen Fox, the twin brother of Henry Fox, Eſq; ſecretary at war, and late a lord of the treaſury; whoſe father, Sir Stephen Fox, was alſo a lord of the treaſury in the reign of king William III.

REM. XXV.

This town is noted for being the birth-place of Roger, the famous Friar Bacon, and for the execution of one Mrs. Branch, a widow of ſome fortune at a farm-houſe between Bath and Frome, who was hanged here in 1740, together with her daughter, for the moſt barbarous murder of their maid ſervant, by whipping her for ſeveral hours together.

REM. XXVI.

Its market is on Wedneſday; and its fairs on July 22 and Auguſt 29.

Milborn

REM. XXVII.

Milborn-port, which is 98 computed, and 116 meaſured miles from London, is no market town nor corporation, tho' it is repreſented in parliament. It appears, however, in Dooms-day-book, to have had a market once and fifty-ſix burgeſſes.

REM. XXVII.

Minhead, which is 132 computed, and 167 meaſured miles from London, is an antient borough, with a harbour in the Briſtol channel, near Dunſter caſtle, much frequented by paſſengers to and from Ireland. It was given by William the Conqueror, to William de Mohun, and incorporated by queen Elizabeth, with great privileges, on condition the corporation ſhould keep the quay in good repair; but its trade falling off, the quay was neglected, and they loſt their privilege. The Lutterels being poſſeſs'd of it, obtain'd a ſtatute in the reign of king William III. for recovering the port, and keeping it in repair, by

by which they were to have the profits of the quay and pier for thirty-ſix years, which have been computed at about two hundred pounds per Annum; and they were at the expence of new building the quay. In purſuance of another act, paſſed about nine years ago, confirming the former, a new head has been built to the quay, the beach cleared, and a great progreſs made in the pier, &c. ſo that now, the biggeſt ſhip may enter, and ride ſafe in the harbour.

REM. XXVIII.

It was formerly governed by a portreeve, but now by two conſtables, choſen annually at a court-leet, held by the Lutterels, who are the lords of the manor. Its chief trade is with Ireland, from whence about forty veſſels uſed to come hither in a year with wool; and about 4000 chaldrons of coals are yearly imported at this place, Watchet and Porlock, from South-Wales, which lies directly oppoſite to it, about ſeven leagues over, the common breadth of this channel, all the way from Holms to the Land's-end. Here are ſeveral rich merchants, who have ſome trade alſo to Virginia

Virginia and the Weſt-Indies, and they correſpond much with the merchants of Barnſtaple and Briſtol in their foreign commerce. Three or 4000 barrels of herrings, which come up the Severn in great ſhoals about Michaelmas, are caught, cured, and ſhipped off here every year for the Mediterranean, &c. Its market is on Wedneſday; and its fair on Whitſun-Tueſday.

FINIS.